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THE BIGLER FAMILY

Descendants of Mark Bigler who immigrated  
to America in 1733

By Norman Burns

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FOREWORD

Mark Bigler immigrated to America in 1733 and settled eventually in Frederick Co., Maryland where he died in 1787.

He had three sons: Mark J. who lived near Roanoke, Virginia; Jacob, the forefather of the Mormon Biglers of Utah; and Israel who migrated to Washington Co., Penn. and was the ancestor of the Church of Brethren Biglers of Ohio and Indiana.

When I began this history in 1958, the Ohio branch of the Bigler family knew only (as stated in the biography of my grandfather Cyrus Bigler) that "Moses Bigler, the father of Cyrus, was a native of Maryland, born in 1818, and his father, David Bigler, was also born in that state."

In the course of the present research, we learned that David's father was Israel Bigler, that Israel's father was the immigrant Mark Bigler, and that the family had originated in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. We were happy also to discover the existence of Bigler kinsmen in Utah and Virginia.

I wish to express my appreciation to all those who contributed so generously of their time and energy in this work, and especially to the following: my mother Mabel Bigler Burns and my Uncles Charles, Jacob and Ray Bigler for first hand information on Cyrus Bigler's family; Charles H. Bigler, his daughter Marguerite Bigler Stoltz, and Epaminondas Bigler, all of Darke Co., Ohio, and Julia Ann Cary of Amlin, Ohio, who provided most of the information on David Bigler's children in Ohio; Edythe Neff of Syracuse, Indiana, for her wealth of historical material and photographs relating to David Bigler's children in Indiana; Clark M. Garber of Butler, Ohio for his contributions on the Garber family; Perry Bigler of Marianna, Penn. for data on Biglers in Washington Co., Penn.; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler of 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah and Mr. Horace J. Bigler of 2975 Melbourne St., Salt Lake City, Utah for their invaluable material on the Utah Biglers; Franklin Keith Brough of Salt Lake City for his book Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler; Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Virginia for her assistance on the history of the Virginia Biglers; Mr. Christian Lerch, Deputy Archivist State Archives, Berne, Switzerland who kindly guided me through Bernese source material; Mrs. Virginia Peterson of Alexandria, Va. who typed the first draft and Mrs. Rosita Butler of the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan, for typing the final draft of this manuscript.

Copies of this history may be obtained (at cost) by writing me care of the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan or my mother, Mrs. Marley A. Burns, Bradford, Ohio. I would welcome any additional information that may be received from other members of the family to supplement or correct this history.

Amman, Jordan  
October 4, 1960

Norman Burns

Revised - \$8.00



## I ORIGINS OF THE BIGLER FAMILY

Mark Bigler, our earliest known ancestor in America, came from somewhere along the Rhine River, according to the family tradition. He had three sons: Mark, Jr., forefather of the Presbyterian Biglers of Virginia; Jacob, forefather of the Mormon Biglers of Utah; and Israel, ancestor of the Baptist Biglers of Western Pennsylvania and the Church of Brethren Biglers of Ohio and Indiana.

The diary of one of Mark Bigler's descendants, Henry William Bigler of Utah, written sometime before 1900, stated: "My great grandfather Mark Bigler was born Some where on the river Rhine in Holland and when a young man came to America and settled in Pennsylvania where he raised a family of Several children how many I never learned. He had three Sons and a daughter, called Catharine, Sons names were Israel, Jacob and Mark." (1)

Amanda Bigler Drake of Pennsylvania, writing to her nephew Israel Bigler in 1907, when she was about 78 years old, recalled that: "My grandfather was born in Frankfort some time in Seventeen Hundred [She was referring to her great grandfather Mark Bigler I, not her grandfather Israel who was born in 1747 probably in Frederick Co., Md.] When grown to manhood he started for America. He took passage on a sailing vessel with some others of his acquaintance. For some time they went all right until a great storm struck them and their ship was wrecked. Some of the crew stuck to the wreckage and were blown a hundred miles out of their course. They were almost starved and had given up all hope of ever getting to land. At last a ship came along and took them on board, so they finally landed at Baltimore [actually Philadelphia] after a voyage of three months on the ocean." (2)

Another of Mark's descendants, William S. Bigler of Pennsylvania, writing about 1937, said: "The Biglers were originally of Swiss descent. The earliest records show that Marcus Bigler, our earliest known ancestor, left Switzerland early in the 17th Century on account of religious persecution and moved with his family to Frankfort, Germany. Not being entirely satisfied with conditions in Germany, the same family later sailed for America via Holland in 1733." (3)

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(1) Unpublished Journal of Henry William Bigler of Utah (son of Jacob, son of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., W. Va, son of the immigrant Mark Bigler I) now in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler, 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah.

(2) Clark M. Garber, Garber Historical and Genealogical Record, Vol. I No. 1, 1937, p. 101. Amanda Bigler Drake was the daughter of Michael Bigler, son of Israel Bigler, son of Mark Bigler I.

(3) Unpublished Notes of William S. Bigler of Washington Co., Penn. (son of Henry, son of Michael, son of Israel, son of Mark Bigler I) now in possession of Perry Bigler, RD 1, Marianna, Penn. Another descendant of Israel Bigler, Andrew Bigler of Kansas City, Missouri (who probably never heard of either Henry William Bigler or William S. Bigler) wrote Edythe Neff of Syracuse, Ind. July 9, 1934: "I would like to meet that party that said I was a Dane. They would surely meet their Waterloo! I have always claimed Swiss Dutch."

## Biglers in Switzerland

The Bigler family appears to have originated in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. East of Berne there is an area known as Das Berner Mittelland, a rolling hill country with numerous rural towns and villages where Biglers have dwelt for centuries and where many Bigler farmers are still living today. This is the country settled by the Allemanni tribe in the IV or V Century A.D. It is a beautiful land of small farms alternating with little woods (called "wald") that spread over the valleys and stretch up the slopes to the very tops of the lower mountains. To the east one can see the snowy peak of the Jungfrau on a clear day. Walking through the countryside, as I did in July 1960, one sees the farmers with their wives and children busy harvesting wheat, sometimes with machinery and sometimes by hand, or making hay which they store in huge bank barns for winter use. They pause from their work to wish passers-by "Gruss Gott", that is "God's greeting". Here are the Bernese house-barns, with the house at one end of the structure and the barn at the other. The tinkle of the cow bell is never far away, for dairying is a major occupation here. There is an atmosphere of plenty about these Bernese farmsteads, with their stacks of small pieces of firewood stored under the broad eaves of the house, their well-kept gardens of vegetables, potatoes, currants and raspberries and surrounding orchards of apple, cherry and pear trees.

Under the old Swiss system followed in this area, families were citizens of both the town (including all rural villages within its jurisdiction) and of the canton where the town was located. The Biglers were "old citizens", before 1800, of seven towns, including their rural villages, clustered within a 20 mile area east of Berne, namely: Muri, Stettlen, Vechigen, Worb, Gross Hochstetten for Oberthal, Rubigen and Eggiwil. (1) These are the only towns in Switzerland where Biglers were "old citizens" before 1800. Biglers are found in many other Swiss towns but their citizenship in those towns dates from after 1800. (2) In all of the Swiss towns the name is invariably spelled Bigler.

The earliest written record I found of Biglers in Berne came from a parchment tome, begun in AD 1389 and entitled Altes Udelbuch von Bern, located in the State Archives of Berne. Mr. Christian Lerch, Deputy Archivist of the State Archives, to whom I am indebted for most of my

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(1) Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Familienforschung, Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz, Polygraphischer Verlag, Zurich, 1940. This book was prepared by the Swiss Genealogical Society with the cooperation of the Swiss Government (Service fédéral de l'état civil). Some say that the name Bigler originally referred to one who came from the town of Biglen (near Worb). Although some Biglers live in Biglen today, the family was not "old citizens" before 1800.

(2) In 1960, there were 130 Biglers listed in the telephone directory of Berne, an additional 91 in the towns and villages east of Berne, 31 in Zurich, 19 in Basle, 13 in Geneva; in Germany, only 2 in Frankfurt am Main, none in Munich; and in Austria, 3 in Vienna, none in Innsbruck.

information on Berne, explained that the Altes Udelbuch is a list of persons resident elsewhere who obtained "external citizenship" in the old city-state of Berne. This they could acquire by buying property, or even fractions of property, within the city of Berne and by furnishing military service to Berne. In return, Berne offered them protection within the city walls during times of trouble and undertook to espouse their just legal claims against feudal or ecclesiastic lords where they lived. The Altes Udelbuch records many Biglers who availed themselves of the protection of "external citizenship" of Berne, including the following:

- AD 1389 "Cuntz Bigler of Herolfingen is an external citizen of Berne having property for which he paid 3 florins, consisting of the upper house of Cuno of Schwartzenburg between the house of John Zollikofer and the other house of Cuno of Schwartzenburg". Mr. Lerch says this property was in the southeast corner of the "crossroads" which is a block south of the City Hall.
- AD 1400- Hans and Yost Bigler, brothers from Schlosswil, paid  
1420 3 florins (equivalent to about \$150 in current purchasing power) for a part of a house on the same street as Cuntz Bigler.
- AD 1429 Three Biglers from Worb, Hensli the younger, Ulrich and Peter, bought property rights in the City Hall of Berne (built in 1410 and still standing), a then current method of acquiring "external citizenship" in Berne.
- AD 1450 Hensli Bigler bought the house in Berne owned by Hensli Bigler.

The Reformation came to Berne in 1528. Thereafter, the Reformed (Zwingli) Church became the state religion of Berne. Children were required to be baptized soon after birth and these baptismal records are still available in the church or official archives of most towns. I visited all of the towns (except Eggiwil) where Biglers were "old citizens" before 1800 and found many Biglers listed in the baptismal records before and after 1700 but no reference to Marcus Bigler born in 1705. As an indication of the large number of Biglers in this area before 1700, the following records were copied at random:

Worb

- 1571 Caspar Bigler from Rufenacht, near Worb, served as witness in a baptism.
- 1573 Uli Bigler, from Vielbringen, near Worb, baptized. Today 9 of the 30 telephone listings in Vielbringen, and 6 of the telephone listings in the nearby rural village of Allmendingen, are Biglers, mostly farmers.

- 1705 Niklaus, born Aug. 25, 1705, son of Hans and Catharina Bigler of Vielbringen.  
1708 Michel, born Aug. 3, 1708, son of Niklaus and Catharina Bigler of Vielbringen.

Vechigen

- 1578 Michel born, son of Gilgen and Margaret Bigler.  
1578 Mathias born Feb. 12, 1578, son of Leonhard and Christina Lehman Bigler of Dentenberg.  
1688 Michel, born Sept. 14, 1688, son of Moriz and Katry Bigler of Dentenberg.

Stettlen

- 1629 Hans Bigler, godfather at baptism.  
1676 Benedek, born April 17, 1676, son of Martin and Barbara Bigler.  
1704 Niklaus born, son of Christian and Maria Bigler.

Muri

- 1695 Niklaus (Niggi), Barbara and Leni Bigler, godparents at baptisms.

Munsingen (for Rubigen)

- 1699 Marti, daughter born of Hans and Barbara Bigler.  
1704 Christian born Feb. 24, son of Hans and Catrina Bigler.

After the Reformation, religious persecution was prevalent in Berne, since any departure from the official Reformed Church was regarded as heresy before God and virtual treason to the State of Berne. The Anabaptists, known in America as the Mennonites, were subjected to over two centuries of the most severe persecution. Anabaptists men and women were dunked in the River Aare in a scientific way to prolong the torture as long as possible until life became extinct. Others were sold to the Venetians to work as galley slaves on Venetian ships plying the Mediterranean. Great numbers had all their property confiscated and were expelled from Berne as destitute refugees. (1) In the period between 1671 and 1711 several hundred Anabaptists left Berne for Alsace, among them being Grabers, Biglers, Mullers, Lehmanns - names frequently associated together in America. (2)

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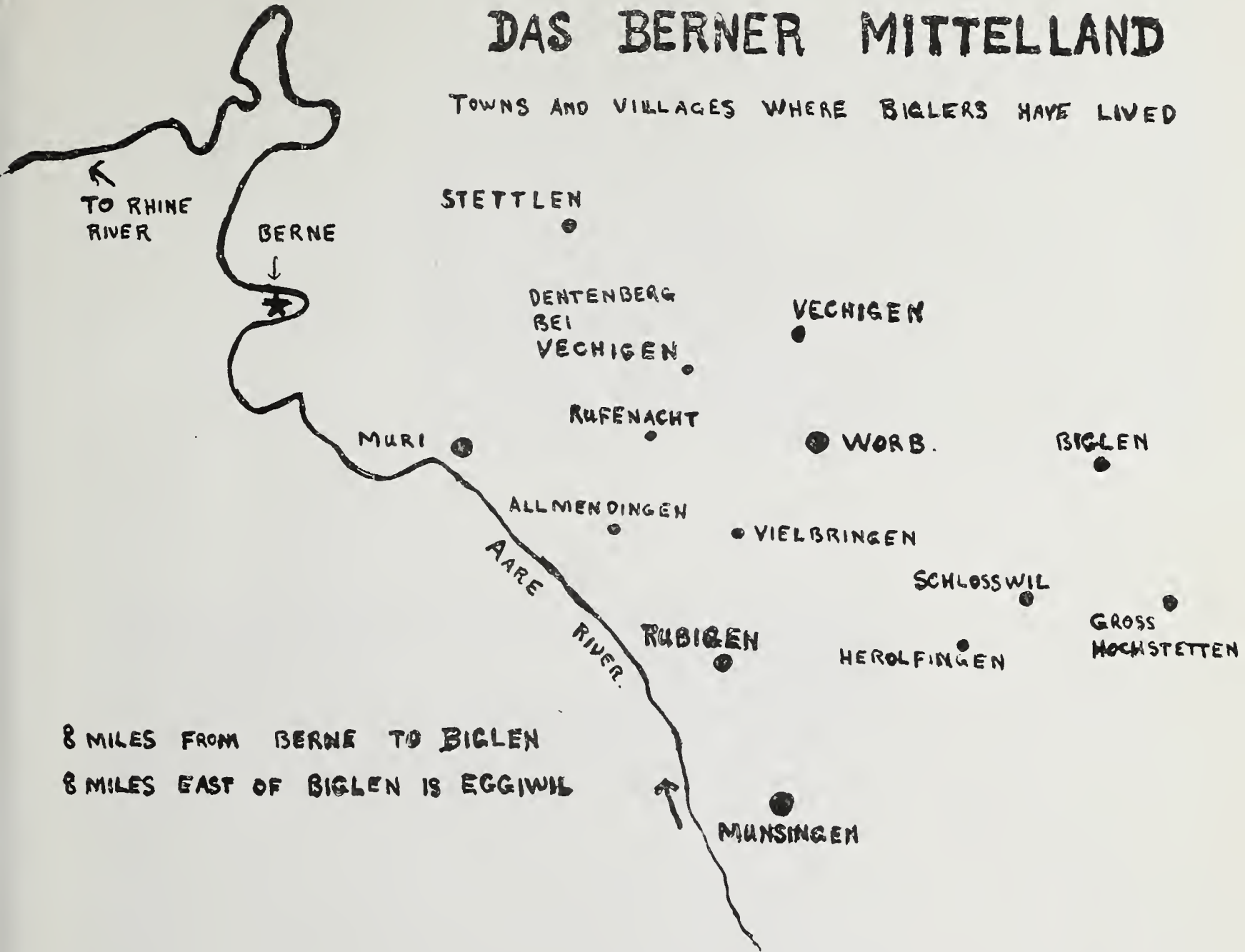
(1) Ernest Muller, Geschichte der Bernischen Taufer, Frauenfeld, 1895, p. 361 quotes an official Bernese document concerning imprisonment of Anabaptists: "Trini Bigler from Worb, a simple and poor woman of 52 years [and another woman] prefer to remain in prison in Berne than to go home to Worb. They shall remain following their desire, as they are sick". Taufer is the German Swiss name for Anabaptists. Bernese document dated 1718.

(2) Delbert Gratz, Bernese Anabaptists and their American Descendants, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, 1953. Dr. Gratz states that in the 17th Century very few Bernese migrated directly to the U.S. but rather that they went first to other nearby countries and eventually from there to the U.S. He notes p. 169 that the name Graybill (Krehbiel) is of Bernese origin and that large numbers of Garbers and Gerbers from Berne were in the Anabaptist movement.



# DAS BERNER MITTELLAND

TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHERE BIGLERS HAVE LIVED



8 MILES FROM BERNE TO BIGLEN  
8 MILES EAST OF BIGLEN IS EGGIWIL

*Donus C. von Schwartzburg promittit Lippen*

*Cuntz Bigler von Herolfingen ist burg und hat vñdel mit 11 gulden an dem obn  
hus. Cunen von Schwartzburg zwistigent Johans Zollikofer hus und  
des sellen von Schwartzburgs hus  
vñdel an vñ der vñma luffe  
Donus Peter Sinerk*

Photostat of Altes Udelbuch von Bern of entry in year A.D. 1389

" Cuntz Bigler of Herolfingen is an external citizen of Berne having property for which he paid 3 florins, consisting of the upper house of Cuno of Schwartzburg between the house of John Zollikofer and the other house of Cuno of Schwartzburg "



Hans Bigler's  
farm at  
Vielbringen



Farm at  
Vielbringen

Old street in  
Vielbringen







Bernese house-barn at Herolfingen



Church at Worb



Road through "wald" to Dentenberg



Bernese style barn near Rubigen



After 1671, hundreds of Bernese, both Anabaptists and others, fled to the Palatinate, to Holland and elsewhere in Europe. Plans for settling Germantown, Penn, were drawn up by Mennonites in Frankfurt, Germany. The Church of the Brethren (Dunkards) was founded at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, many of the early members coming from the Palatinate and German Switzerland. The first Church of Brethren settlement in America was at Germantown in 1719.

Against this background, it seems likely that Mark Bigler's parents or grandparents fled Berne during the wave of religious persecution after 1671, that they settled somewhere in the Palatinate, and that Mark was born probably in the Palatinate. If one knew the names of his parents or grandparents, it might be possible to trace his family, through the baptismal records, to the particular village in the Bernese midland where their forebears lived for a thousand years.

Beginning about 1720, the "America fever" spread throughout the Palatinate and a growing number of members of dissident sects in the German Swiss and German Rhine country moved down the Rhine Valley to Rotterdam, the great seaport at the mouth of the Rhine in Holland, from whence so many sailed for the promised land. This great wave of emigration went mainly to Pennsylvania, for William Penn, who thrice visited the Palatinate, encouraged the migration of all those who sought freedom from religious persecution of the Old World in his Quaker land of Pennsylvania.

#### Biglers in York County, Penn.

Mark Bigler arrived at Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 1733 on the Brigantine Richard and Elizabeth, Master Christopher Clymer in command, that sailed from Rotterdam. (1) Among the ship documents was a list of Palatines (Rhinelanders) on board including Marcus Beegler, age 28. Another list of "Palatines imported in the Brign Richard and Elizabeth" and reported as having taken the oath of allegiance to the Province of Pennsylvania included Marx Bigler. No other Biglers were reported on this ship.

Family tradition has it that three Bigler brothers came together to Pennsylvania from the old country (see Cyrus Bigler's Biography, Nicodemus Bigler's letter of Feb. 5, 1880 and the oral tradition of the Virginia Biglers). Many Biglers arrived in Pennsylvania in the decades 1733-53--none reported as arriving before 1733--but of these I have been able to trace relationships only between the brothers Mark and Michael

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(1) Strassburger and Hinke, Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1727-1775, Proceedings Pennsylvania German Society, Vol. XLII, 1934. "Names of Foreigners who took Oath of Allegiance to State of Pennsylvania, 1727-1775", Penn Archives II Series Vol. 17. Garber, The Garber Historical and Genealogical Records, Vol. I No. 1, p. 15 says that out of 324 passenger ships transporting immigrants to America between 1727 and 1775, passenger lists are available for only 138 of them.

Bigler. This relationship was discovered only through the accidental finding of Michael's will of September 21, 1763 at Frederick, Maryland where he mentions his brother Mark. Michael Bigler arrived at Philadelphia, May 30, 1741, on the Snow Francis and Ann, from Rotterdam, the only Bigler on that ship. Ship papers reported him as Michl Biegler among the "Palatine men on board" and as Michel Bigler among those who took the oath of allegiance to the Province of Pennsylvania on May 30, 1741. He and Mark appear to have been close associates all their lives, and his name has been carried on by some of Mark's children.

A complete list of all Biglers reported as arriving in Philadelphia in the period 1727-1775 is shown below. It is possible, in fact probable, that some of these were related to Mark and Michael but there is no written evidence to this effect. (1) Among these were:

September 18, 1733 - Pennsylvania Merchant of London.

Mathias Beighler

Maria and Anna Bigler - women

Anna, Elizabeth and Andreas Bigler - children

This ship, which arrived only ten days before Mark Bigler landed in Philadelphia, had the first reported arrivals of Biglers in Philadelphia.

- (1) There are numerous references to Biglers of these given names in eastern Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Archives but I have not attempted to establish their identity or relationship with the original immigrants. Among these are:
- Matthias Beegler or Mathius Bigler on "touer of duty" with, and in list of males 18-53 in district of, 8th Battalion of Lancaster militia apparently 1781 (Penn Archives V 7:825 and 858)
- John Bigler or John Biegler, farmer of Pine Grove twp, Berks Co., 1779, 1780, 1781, 1784 (Penn Archives III 18:256, 388, 517, 647).
- John Bigler or Beegler, Fourth Battalion, Philadelphia Militia, 1777, 1778 1779 (Penn Archives VI 1:29, 69, 295, 760, 303, 95, 455, 967).
- John Bigler or Beigler, butcher in Philadelphia, tax lists, 1769, 1779, 1780, 1781 (Penn Archives III 14:191, 797; III 15:284, 617).
- Peter Bigler, or Biegler or Beagler, weaver in Pine Grove twp., Berks Co., 1774, 1779, 1780 (Penn Archives III 18:256, 388, 515, 647; III 26:247).
- Martin Bigler, farmer in Greenwich twp, and Albany twp., Berks Co., 1767, 1779 (Penn Archives III 18: 57, 238, 561).
- George Bigler or Biegler or Bieghler, First lieutenant, 5th battalion of Lancaster Co. militia, 1777, 1779, 1781 (Penn Archives III 23:437; V 7:465, 837; VI 3: 95).
- George Bigler or Beighler, married Ann Miller July 17, 1764, county not indicated (Penn Archives II 2:29); tax returns Richmond twp., Berks Co., 1767 (Penn Archives III 18:18); taylor with 11 acres Maxatany twp., Berks Co., 1784 (Penn Archives III 18:635).
- Jacob Bigler, widower, m. Dorothea Catherine Dimpkin 5-12-1768 St. Michaels and Zion Church, Philadelphia (Penn Archives (?) Series Vol. 2, p. 333 Penn. Marriages Prior to 1810).



Dec. 11, 1744 - Carteret, from Rotterdam.  
Jacob Bickler and Philip Bickler

Oct. 17, 1749 - Dragon, from Rotterdam.  
Johannes Bigler.

Nov. 30, 1750 - Sandwich, from Rotterdam.  
Hans Jacob Bigler.

Oct. 7, 1751 - Janet, from Rotterdam.  
Martin Bigler and George Bigler.

Sept. 15, 1753 - Patience, from Rotterdam.  
Jacob Bickler (or Bigler?), age 21.

The question is asked sometimes whether William Bigler, Governor of Pennsylvania 1852-55, and his brother John Bigler, Governor of California 1852-56, were related to our family. I have not been able to discover any direct relationship. Their father was Jacob Bigler, born about 1774, keeper of the "Yellow Tavern" in East Pennsborough twp., Cumberland Co., Penn. (married to Susan Dock), where John was born in 1804 and William in 1813. Thereafter they migrated to Mercer Co., Penn. Whether their father, Jacob, was the son of the immigrant Jacob Bickler of 1744, or of Hans Jacob Bigler of 1750, or of Jacob Bickler of 1753, or of another immigrant Bigler, I do not know. (1) The towns of Bigler and Biglerville, Penn. took their name from Gov. William Bigler.

Our meager knowledge of Mark Bigler in the New World comes from a few legal and church records. That he moved about considerably and that he prospered is evident from those fragmentary records. It is a pity that the early Brethren were so little inclined to write about their own lives. From the legal records alone they appear to have marched stiffly through the pages of history, clothed in an austere legal atmosphere,

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(1) A Jacob Bigler appeared on the tax lists of Dover twp., York Co., 1779-83 (Penn Archives III 21: 58, 198, 456, 586, 685) whose son Jacob Jr. was mentioned in his father's will of Nov. 5, 1787 (York Co. Will Book H. 274). Jacob Bigler Sr. of Dover twp. stipulated in his will that his house and estate in Dover town go to his "dear wife Suvia" and thereafter should be divided equally "among my four Chiltern shear and shear alick except my oldest son Jacob shall have twenty Shillings more and above his Equal Shear", the other children being Joseph, Barbara and Magtalina. A Joseph Bigler of Dover twp. (presumably the son of Jacob Bigler Sr. of Dover twp.) appears in the early records of York County (Penn Archives VI 2:273) as follows: "To Hum these presens may come. Greetings. Know all men by these presents that I Joseph Bigler of Dover township York County have in the 4th class Sarved a touer in the Militia in Camp Security in the County of York for Casper Spahr of the Same place and the same Casper Spahr has fully paid me for Sd. Sarvice. Witness my hand and Seal this 19th Day feber 1787 Joseph his X mark Bigler."

whereas in fact they must have been sturdy and vibrant personalities with interesting stories to tell if only the tale had been told.

The first record is that of a land warrant issued to Marcus Bigler by the Province of Pennsylvania, on Oct. 18, 1738, for 200 acres in Lancaster County (Penn Archives III 24:359). This may have been in the Manor of Springetbury on the Little Conewago River, adjacent to the land of Leonard Leyst or Lease. (1) However, neither the Lancaster Court House nor the York County records which I examined personally (York County having been carved from Lancaster County in 1749) indicates that Mark Bigler converted this warrant into a deed of actual ownership. The York County records do not show any land ownership in that county by Mark Bigler from their beginning in 1749.

Michael Bigler--Mark's brother--had various land transactions in what is now York County. He received land warrants for 100 acres on April 25, 1744, and for 50 acres on March 17, 1745, in Lancaster County (Penn Archives III 24: 362). On February 2, 1761 he sold to Thomas Armor for "Three Pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania ... a certain Tract of Land situate adjoining my other Land then in Lancaster County now in Manheim Township in the County of York aforesaid and the same was granted unto me by a Warrant from the Honourable the Proprietaries of the Province aforesaid bearing date the Seventeenth day of March which was in the Year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred and forty five for Fifty Acres more or less ..." (York Deed Book A.478). These fifty acres appear to have been in the bitterly disputed "Digges Tract" claimed by Pennsylvania and Maryland, both of which were issuing title to individual settlers for the same tracts of land. Thus, we read where Peter Welty entered caveat against acceptance of a patent granted to Thos. Armor in the rights of Michael Beighler's warrant of March 17, 1745 for 50 acres in Manheim twp., York Co., which land was claimed by Welty under Maryland title (Penn Archives III 2:246).

On July 27, 1759, "Michael Beagler of the County of York ... Yeoman" sold to Peter Aston two lots on King Street on the West side of Codorus Creek--these being the third lot from the Town Land of York--each lot being 65½ feet on King Street and 230 feet deep, for "sixty Pounds lawful Money of Pennsylvania" (York Co. Deed Book A.341). King Street is now one of the principal streets of York.

The Bigler name appears in early church records of York County. Rev. Morgan Edwards, referring to the Little Conewago congregation (2) about 20

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(1) Brough, Freely I Gave, p. 2

(2) The Little Conewago congregation of Manheim and Heidelberg townships met in the houses and barns of members for many generations. The Black Rock Church of the Brethren (Brodbecks, Penn.), with its first regular church building constructed in 1876, is regarded by Brethren historians as the lineal descendant of the original Little Conewago congregation (Eisenberg, Church of the Brethren in Southern District of Pennsylvania, Quincy Orphanage Press, Quincy, Penn., 1941 pp. 194 ff). There are no Biglers either in the present congregation of the Black Rock Church or in other Brethren churches of that area. Nor are any Biglers listed for the early years in the records of the Historical Society of York County for the cemeteries of the Brethren and other denominations in York and Adams counties.

miles southwest of York--the first Brethren congregation west of the Susquehanna River--wrote in his Materials towards a History of the American Baptists, Philadelphia, 1770:

"Their beginning [Little Conewago Church of the Brethren] was in 1738 when one Eldrick, Dierdorff, Bigler, Gripe, Studfman and others united into a church, having Rev. Daniel Leatherman to their assistance. He left them and went to Monocasy [Maryland]."

This was less than two decades after the arrival of the first Brethren in Pennsylvania with their Elder Peter Becker at Germantown in 1719. The Bigler mentioned here must have been either Mark or Mathias, since Michael and the other immigrant Biglers had not arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738.

The Bigler name next appears in the records of a Lutheran Minister-- Rev. John Casper Stoever, Baptismal and Marriage Records, 1730-1779, Harrisburg Publishing Co., 1896. Rev. Stoever's records list at Conewago:

Marx Biegeler -

Biegeler, Anna Maria, born March 30, 1741; baptised Aug. 21, 1741. Sponsors Andreas Hill and Catarina Kuntz.(1)

John Michael Carl -

Carl, Marie Catarina, baptised Nov. 13, 1739. Sponsors Marx Birgler (Bigler?) and wife.

John Michael Biegler and Susanna Reuscher, married Dec. 14, 1741 (the immigrant Michael Bigler landed at Philadelphia May 30, 1741. Michael Bigler appears to have married twice, since the Orphans Court Docket of York Co., 1749-1778, reports a Michl Bigler who married Rosina, widow of Adam Boyer.

St. Matthews Lutheran Congregation of Conewago, York County reported the baptism of a John Michael Bugler (written with umlaut), born May 17, 1743, son of John Michael Bugler (church records of the Historical Society of York County). Since the Brethren do not practice infant baptism, it seems odd that these early Biglers were baptized by a Lutheran minister. It may be that Mark and Michael Bigler were then members of the Lutheran or the Reformed Church and became Brethren later.

#### Biglers in Frederick Co., Maryland

Mark Bigler moved from York County to nearby Frederick County, Maryland, presumably in 1743 the date of his first recorded acquisition of

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(1) Since there is no mention of an Anna Maria Bigler in the will of Mark Bigler I, one wonders whether she may have been the daughter whose children were named in the will of Mark Bigler I. Note similarity of names with those of the family of the immigrant Mathias Bigler, suggestive of possible relationship between Mark and Mathias Bigler.

land in Frederick Co. A descendant of Mark's son, Mark II of Botetourt Co., Virginia (letter of Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Va. to Norman Burns, dated April 10, 1959) states that old family records in their possession indicated that the immigrant Mark Bigler first lived in Lancaster, Penn. (a part of this county became York Co. in 1749) and moved from there to Frederick Co. in 1743.

The Court House records of Frederick County indicate that Mark Bigler acquired several tracts in Frederick Co., Md., the first in 1743, a second in 1750 and another in 1761. (1) These tracts upon his death were passed to his son Mark II who in turn transferred them (and possibly some land of his own) to his brother Israel in a deed of April 13, 1802 (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 22:527). This latter deed described the various tracts, all contiguous and converted into one tract, that had been acquired by Mark I over the years, namely: "a tract called Mark's Delight originally on the first day of March 1743 granted Mark Biegler, A tract called Bigler's addition to Hulls Choice originally on the thirtieth day of October 1750 granted to the said Mark Biegler And a tract called the Resurvey on Hull's Choice originally on the 29th day of september 1761 granted the same Mark Biegler ... Containing two hundred and fifty nine and a half acres of land" for the sum of four hundred pounds current money. The deed was signed by

Mark Bigler (seal)  
her  
Catrina n Begeler (seal)  
mark

Attached was a certification by the Clerk of Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, dated April 20, 1802, that "Mark Biegler and Cathrine his wife" had affixed their seals to the deed.

The original purchase deed is available for one of these tracts where mark Beigler, a farmer of Frederick County, purchased for "Twenty Pounds Current Money of the Province ... a Parcel of Land called and known by the name of Beiglers addition to Hulls Choice lying and being in Frederick County ... on the North side of Great pipe Creek Containing and laid out for fifty Acres of Land more or less Together with all and singular the Buildings and Improvements ..." (Frederick Deed Book F. 981). One can infer what Mark Bigler must have felt for this fertile and beautiful farm land of Frederick County from the name he gave his first acquisition there - Mark's Delight.

The Frederick County court house records show the purchase on December 25, 1781 by Mark Bigler and his wife Mary Catharine Bigler of a 26 - acre "parcell of Land called Hickory Bottom situate on great pipe Creek in Frederick County" (Deed WR 3:2). It is not clear whether this deed referred to Mark the father or the son - and thus whether Mary Catharine was the full name of the wife of the father or the son.

Mark Bigler made his last will on March 19, 1787, when he was near his journey's end. Soon thereafter, on April 25, 1787, his son Israel appeared in the Frederick County court testifying that this document was the true will of his deceased father. This will and land record I discovered after long search at Frederick, Maryland on February 24, 1959, thereby definitely establishing the relationship between Israel Bigler of Washington Co. Penn.

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(1) These tracts would appear to be in the northwest part of the present Carroll County that was carved from Frederick County in 1837.

(ancestor of the Ohio and Indiana Biglers) and Mark Bigler of Frederick County, Maryland. Heretofore, we knew from the family tradition of the Washington Co. Biglers that the name of Israel Bigler's father was believed to be Mark Bigler but documentary proof of the relationship was missing; nor did we know where Mark Bigler had lived. The presumption was, from the Church and legal records cited above, that he lived in York Co. Penn., but there was also a tradition that the family had come from Maryland. The Census of 1790 did not list any Biglers by the name of Mark or Israel in either Pennsylvania or Maryland, an omission that raises an interesting conjecture as to how Israel Bigler happened to escape the vigilance of the Census taker. However, in searching through will lists in the Library of Congress, I came upon the will of Michael Beighler, dated 1763, at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland. A search of the Annapolis records disclosed that this was the will of a Michael Beighler of Frederick Co., Maryland who bequeathed some of his property to Mark Beegler, son of his brother Mark Beigler. Thus the trail lead to the green hills of Frederick County, Maryland, where I discovered 172 years after his death that our first ancestor in America had lived over half of his long life on a farm that he called Mark's Delight. It was a solemn and impressive moment to read in the dusty records of the Frederick Court House the last will of our earliest ancestor in America, to have his words come to life again after having been lost and forgotten for so many years, and to imagine what one could from his last thoughts about the kind of person he may have been.

Mark Bigler voiced his devout spirit in the words of his will, "I most Humbly bequeath my Soul to God my Maker Beseeching his most Gracious Acceptance of it<sup>o</sup>. He showed a tender sollicitude for the welfare of his "dearly beloved wife Catharine<sup>o</sup> in the requests to his son to "keep two Cows for his Mother winter & summer as his own are kept" and to his tenant to harvest her share of the grain and to "Carry it up Stairs for her". His cherished "plantation ... Containing two hundred and thirty five Acres in pine Crick hundred and Frederick County<sup>o</sup> was bequeathed, in accord with European tradition, to one son Mark. Named in the will were his other nine children each of whom received specified sums of money, namely Israel, Jacob, Catharine, Elizabeth, Salme (Salome) Phebe, Julianna, Hester and Barbary, and two granddaughters.

Thus Yeoman Mark Bigler, wandering immigrant from the Rhineland, after more than four score of eventful years, blessed with sons and daughters and many fertile acres came to his last resting place in Frederick County Maryland, in 1787. He had lived through stirring times when the American colonies struggled for and gained their independence. Now (1787) they were on the verge of formulating that great document, the Constitution, that made America the kind of country where the descendants of Mark Bigler, and of all others like him, could enjoy a heritage of freedom. Mark Bigler's descendants are now legion, of many different religious faiths, engaged in varied material pursuits and living in many states from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific Ocean.

A copy of Mark Bigler's will dated March 19, 1787, follows (Frederick County Will Record G.M. 2:238):

"In the Name of God Amen I Marks Beigler of pine Crick hundred and Frederick County State of Maryland Yeoman being weak in Body yet through the Abundant Mercy and Goodness of God of a sound and perfect Understanding and Memory do Constitute this my Last Will and Testament and desire it may be received by all as such. Imprimise I most Humbly bequeath my Soul to God my Maker Beseeching his most Gracious Acceptance of it. Imprimise. I Give my Body to the Earth to be Buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Dear Wife and my Executors hereafter named, and as to my Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me with in this Life I will and positively Order that all my Just Debts and funeral Charges be fully paid and Satisfied. Item I Give unto my dearly beloved Wife Catharine the full third part of the Issues Rents and profits of the plantation whereon I now dwell Containing two hundred and thirty five Acres of Land to be paid to her yearly and every year during her natural Life by my Son Marks Beiglar, and likewise my Son Marks shall provide and keep two Cows for his Mother winter & summer as his own are kept Item, I Give Devise and Bequeath unto my aforesaid Son Mark Beigler and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever all the above Described Tract of Land and plantation to be wholly to his proper Use after the Deceas of my Aforesaid Loving Wife Catharine his paying the Legacy herein after mentioned and Likewise it is my Will that aforesaid Wife shall have the Sole Use of the House I now dwell in durin the full Term of her Natural Life, and Likewise I Give unto her all my Houshold and Kitchen furnature. Item, I do Will and Order that my aforesaid Son Marks Shall pay to my Daughter Elizabeth Wife of Henry Eller the sum of six pounds Lawful Money of the State of Maryland. Item I Give to Elizabeth Etter my Grand Daughter the sum of Sixteen pounds of Like Money aforesaid to be paid by my aforesaid Son Marks Item I give to my Grand daughter Ester Randabush the sum of four pounds to be paid as aforesaid--Item- I Give to my Daughter Salme wife of Samuel Tomme the Sum of Twenty Shillings of Like Money aforesaid, Item--I Give and Bequeath to my Deaughter phebe Wife of Lazares Fonderburge the sum of six pounds of like Lawfull Money to be paid as above Imprimise I Give to my Daughter Catharine Wife of Henry Miller the sum of five Shillings if demanded. Item -- I Give and Bequeath unto my Deaughter Hester the sum of Twenty pounds of Like lawfull money aforesaid to be paid by my aforesaid Son Marks Item -- I give and Bequeath unto my Son Israel Beigler the sum of one Hundred pounds Lawfull money aforesaid to be paid to him when ever demanded after my Decease by aforesaid Son Mark Beigler -- Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Julianna the sum of twenty pounds of Like money aforesaid to be paid by my Son Marks Whereas I have already assisted my Son Jacob Biegler Imprimise I Give unto him the sum of Two Shillings and Six pence if demanded Item -- I Give unto my Daughter Barbary the sum of five Shillings to be paid as above, and as to the Grain now in the Ground that Christian Laman has farmed, It is my Will and I do Order that the said Laman shall Deliver the third part Thereof in the Bushel to the Use and Benefit of my aforesaid Loving Cathrine and to Carry it up Stairs for her and I do hereby Constitute and appoint my Son Marke Beigler and my Son Israel Beigler joint Executors to this my Will and Testament Revouking hereby and disannuling all former Wills or Wills Ratifying and Confirming this and no Other to be my Will and Testament in Testamoney Whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Affixed my Seal this nineteenth Day of March in the Year one

Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty seven Anno Domini 1787  
declared by the said Marks  
Beigler as his Last  
Will and Testament  
Signed Sealed in the  
presence of us  
Christopher Erb  
John Hull

Marks Bigler

(seal)

his  
Windle WH Hissone  
mark

Frederick County April the 25th 1787<sup>n</sup>

"Then came Israel Beigler and Solomnly affirmed and declared that the  
aforegoing Instrument of Writing is the True and Whole Will and Testament  
of Marks Beigler late of Frederick County deceased that hath come to his  
hands and possession and that he doth not know of any Other -- "Geo.  
Murdock Reg."

Michael Bigler would appear to have arrived in Frederick County long  
after his brother Mark settled there. A deed in the Frederick County Court  
House (Deeds F. 1198) dated Nov. 29, 1760, records that "Michael Beeghler  
of York County in the Province of Pennsylvania Farmer" purchased for 210  
pounds of current money a "tract or parcell Called the resurvey on Frem-  
bling [or Trembling?] ... Standing on a draught of Kittocktain ... Contain-  
ing & now laid out for Two Hundred & Twenty six acres of land." This deed  
was sealed and delivered in the presence of a Daniel Leatherman. Another  
deed of Aug. 15, 1764 records the purchase by Michael Beegler of a "Parcel  
of Land called I would not ... standing by the head of a spring that falls  
into Broad run a Draught of Kittockton" containing 25 acres (Frederick Co.  
Deeds J. 765).

A copy of Michael Bigler's will, dated Sept. 21, 1763 follows: (1)

"In the Name of God Amen The twenty first Day of September in the Year of  
our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and sixty three, I Michael Beighleer  
of Frederick County (farmer) well in Body and perfect Mind and memory  
thanks be given unto God therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of my  
Body & knowing that it is appointed for all Men once to die, do make and  
ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say principally and first  
of all I Give and recomand my Soul into the hand of God that gave it, &  
for my Body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like  
and decent Manner at the Discretion of my Executor nothing doubting but at  
the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power  
of God, & as touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to

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(1) Frederick Co., Book of Wills A1 227. Another copy, differing slightly  
in detail, is filed at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. Michael's  
widow, Rosannah Biglar, mentions in her will of Sept. 9, 1785, her dowry  
from her deceased husband of York Co., several of her children named Boyer,  
and her daughter Catharine's husband, Daniel Leatherman, who was her exe-  
cutor (Frederick Co. Wills G.M. 2, 172).

bless me in this Life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and Form, Imprimis it is my Will and I do order that in the first place all my just Debts and funeral Charges be paid & satisfied. Item I give to Mark Beegler, Son of my Brother Mark Beigler the Sum of five pounds current Money. Item I Give all and singular of the movable & real Estate to my Beloved wife Rosinah her Heirs and assigns forever and mak her to be my only & sole Executor, and I do hereby disallow Revoke and disannul all and every former Testaments Wills, Legacies and Executors by me and in my Name in any ways before willed & Bequeathed Rattifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will & Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the Day and Year above written: Michael Beighler (seal)"

"On the 20th Day of November 1764 Came Daniel Leatherman & John Arnold two subscribing witnesses to the foregoing will, and made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that they did see the Testator Michael Beighler sign and seal the said Will & heard publish pronounce and declare the same to be his Last Will & Testament & that at the Time of his doing he was to the best of their apprehension of a sound & disposing Mind & memory and that they also saw Matthias Hursman & Bartley Booker the other subscribing Witnesses to the said Will Sign their Names as Witnesses thereto ..."

Numerous reference in Michael Bigler's transactions to Daniel Leatherman recalls the fact that the Little Conewago congregation of the Brethren had been organized in 1738 by Rev. Daniel Leatherman. Rev. Leatherman, leaving Little Conewago in 1756, settled at Garfield, Maryland, and later at Routzahn's mill where he died in 1798. His son Daniel Leatherman Jr. moved to Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn., in 1781. Mark Bigler's son Israel (our ancestor) also moved to Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn. where he was a member of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. Considering these personal relationships, it seems almost certain that the brothers Mark and Michael Bigler were members of the Little Conewago Church of the Brethren in York County Penn. and that they moved from there to the Brethren community in Frederick County, probably either the Beaver Dam or the Pipe Creek Brethren Church.

Virtually nothing is known of Mark Bigler's daughters. Accounts concerning his sons and their descendants follow. All of his male descendants appear to have left Frederick County, Maryland, for I was not able to discover any Bigler in that county in 1959.



## II. MARK BIGLER II - SON OF MARK I

Mark Bigler II, son of the immigrant Mark Bigler, settled near Troutville, Botetourt County, Virginia, where some of his descendants live today. He was born in 1747, the recorded year of birth of his brother Israel. He married Catherine Lease (possibly the daughter of Philip Lease or Leyst of York Co., Penn.) who was born in 1763. (1) The first evidence of his presence in Botetourt County is that of a deed reporting his purchase of 80 acres of land there on Sept. 5, 1785, for twenty pounds of Virginia currency. (2) This farm and the original log house where he lived are now owned by Mr. H. B. Freeman (photo Plate A).

It is an interesting coincidence that the Virginia Biglers, like the Ohio Biglers, have an old, half remembered, tradition that they are descendants of one of three Bigler brothers who migrated together from the old country. The Virginia tradition is that three Beagler brothers immigrated with their father to Pennsylvania and that later some of the family migrated to Virginia, California and New York. (2) The oral tradition of the Virginia Biglers is that the immigrant Mark Bigler I first settled in Lancaster, Penn, moved to Maryland in 1743, and that his brother's name was Jacob. Since Mark Bigler I named one of his sons, Jacob, and since his two sons Mark II and Israel each named a son Jacob, there is a presumption that Jacob may have been the name of the brother or father of Mark Bigler I. The Ohio tradition is that three Bigler brothers came together from the old country to Pennsylvania, where they separated, one remaining in Pennsylvania, one going to Virginia and another to New York.

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(1) Letters from Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey (daughter of Mark Bigler IV) of Troutville, Botetourt Co., dated April 28, Aug. 17, Sept. 16, 1959, and March 8, 1960, supplied nearly all of the information in this chapter, except the estate and will records of Mark Bigler II which were obtained from the Clerk of Court, Botetourt Court House, Fincastle, Va.

A note by Mary Hoss Headman in Maryland Historical Magazine, Sept. 1945, p. 250 states that the wife of Mark Bigler II was Catherine, daughter of Philip and Margaret Lease or Leyst; and that Philip Lease arrived in America in 1749, was naturalized in Chester Co., Penn. Sept. 14, 1765 and died in Frederick Co., Maryland about 1769. Some accounts say Catherine was the daughter of Jacob Lease.

The Penn. Historical Society, Vol. 26, 1902, note by Mary Hoss p. 228, states that Mark Bigler II married Catherine Lease who was born 1763 and died Jan. 4, 1832. See Brough, Freely I Gave, p. 2 for the name Leonard Lease of York Co.

(2) Emma Bigler Merrey letter of Sept. 16, 1959 quoting a letter received by her sister Irene in 1948 from Carlie Watkins (wife of Leo Watkins and great grandson of Mary Bigler Sessler) who wrote that she and her husband's sister Zenella Watkins Firebaugh were arranging 2½ bushels of old family papers, one of which had "something about 3 Beagler brothers [who] came to America with their father and settled in Pennsylvania. Later some of the family migrated to Calif., New York and Virginia."

Mark Bigler I, as noted above, bequeathed his plantation in Frederick County to his son Mark II. On April 13, 1802, Mark Bigler II and Cathrine his wife, of Botetourt County, sold these lands, 259 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, to his brother Israel, for four hundred pounds of current money. (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 22:527.)

A family Bible now in possession of the Sessler descendants of Mark II (originally purchased by Mark II's son Jacob on March 31, 1823) carries the notation: "Mark Bigler died in the 79th year of his age April 14, 1826. Catherine Bigler died Jan. 4, 1832, age 69 years." Catherine Bigler's will, dated 1831, left four of her children (Mary Sessler, Catherine Moomaw, Elizabeth Lavender and Mark III) 10 cents each; and the remainder of her property was left to her son Jacob and her daughter Susannah. Mark and Catherine Bigler, and their daughter Susannah, were buried in Haymakertown Cemetery, formerly known as Sessler Cemetery, about two hundred yards behind the log cabin on the farm of Mark II. The graves are marked with flagstones but no inscriptions are visible now, according to Emma Bigler Merrey's letter of Aug. 1959.

Mark II's will, dated Jan. 24, 1825, and filed at the Botetourt County Courthouse of Fincastle, indicates a familiar Bigler trait, namely a strong interest in the material welfare of his family. To his oldest son Jacob he devised "the whole of my lands Whereon I now live consisting of Three Tracts adjoining each other." To his wife he gave "all my household & kitchen furniture ... two Cows also two hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by my son Jacob in annuel payments ... she is also to have her chouse of a room in my dwelling House with nessery fewell & her maintenance during her Life furnished by my son Jacob ... "Specific bequests of money or livestock were made to his other children, Mark III, Catharine Bigler Moomaw, Elizabeth Bigler Lavender, Mary Bigler Sessler and Susannah.

An inventory of the personal property of Mark Bigler, deceased, dated July 12, 1826, is filed at the Botetourt Co. Courthouse. From it, one may glean something of his way of life. It lists a considerable number of horses, colts, cows, calves, sheep, hogs and geese--an indication that he must have depended heavily upon livestock for his livelihood. It lists "eight hogs in the woods" appraised at \$1.50 each, cows appraised at \$9 each and geese at 25 cents each. It includes bags of wool, a loom, two spinning wheels, an apple mill, brass kettles probably for making apple butter or soap, bee baskets for honey, and a cow bell whose tinkle rings through the years to tell us that Mark Bigler allowed his cows to roam the woods.

The German Bible appraised at \$5.50 suggests the German-speaking ancestry of Mark and Catherine Bigler. There is no reference in his will, or in other family records, to his religious affiliation. But the will was witnessed by Edward, William and George McDonald, and his personal property was appraised by Edward and George McDonald. Emma Bigler Merrey, writing me on April 28, 1959 of her paternal ancestry, said: "I know very little about their religion. My grandfather's family (Mark III) and my father's family (Mark IV) were Presbyterians. We live near the Mt. Union Presbyterian Church that has been serving the people of community since before 1832. The original building was a small brick structure known as the Mountain Union Meeting House and served as a place of worship for the different denominations. In 1832, the Presbyterian Church was formally organized. The old brick church was replaced by a

frame building in 1888. (photo Plate A) It seems evident that Mark II and his son Mark III must have fallen in with Scotch Presbyterian McDonalds and adopted their religious faith. Since I am a descendant on my father's side of McDonalds, I cannot but commend other branches of the Bigler and McDonald clans for consorting with each other.

A copy of the will of Mark Bigler II, including an inventory of his personal property, follows:

Will of Mark Bigler II

"By permission of Almighty God I mark Beglar of Botetourt and state of Virginia being of sound and disposing mind and memory but well knowing the uncertainty of Human life do make the following disposition of all my Estate that is to say it is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid out of my Estate after the payment of my Debts I divide to my wife Catharine Beglar all my household & kitchen furniture that may remain after the divides hereafter made two Cows also two Hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by my son Jacob in anuel payments as she may request it which property she may dispose off amongst my Children at he decease as she may think proper she is also to have her chouse of a room in my dwelling House with nessery fewell & her maintenance during her Life furnished by my son Jacob I devise to my son Jacob the whole of my lands Whereon I now live consisting of Three Tracts adjoining each other to him and his Heirs forever in consequence of which he is to pay to my Wife the above Two Hundred & fifty Dollars and to each of my Children the sum hereafter devised to them I also give my son Jacob five head of horses waggen & herness and the ballance of my cattle that remain after the devised hereafter made I devise to my mary Sesler [usually written Sessler] the property given her at her marriage also one hundred & fifty dollars to be paid her by my son Jacob in one year after my Decease I devise to my dauter Catharine Mowmaw the property given her at her marriage also one hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by Son Jacob in three years after my decease I devise to my Daughter Elizabeth Lavinder the property given her at her marriage also one Hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid her in five years after my Decease by my son Jacob I devise to my son Mark one horse and Colt already given him and one Cow also one hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid him by my son Jacob in seven years after my decease I devise to my daughter Susannah two Beds & their furniture three head of Cattle already (?) to her also one Hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by my son Jacob in nine years after my decease also her accomidation in the same room with her mother so long as she may remain Single and finally I do hereby constitute and appoint my two Sons Jacob and Mark Executors of this my last will and Testament revoking and canceling all former wills by me heretofore made and declaring pronouncing & publishing this only to be my last will and Testament in Testimony whereof I have this twenty fourth day of January one Thousand and eight hundred & twenty-five Signed & Sealed the same as such."

At Botetourt June Court, 1826

signed Mark Biglar (seal)

Inventory of Property of Mark Bigler II

"Pursuant to an order of Botetourt June Court 1826 we the subscribers met at the House of Mark Bigler Decd. and being Sworn proceeded to Inventory and appraise the Estate of Sd Decd. this 12th day of July 1826 as followeth to wit

1	waggon & gear	\$ 110 00
1	old Bay Horse	20
1	Bay Mare	20
1	Sorrel Horse	70
1	Sorrel Mare	50
1	White Cow & Calf	12
1	Brindle Do & Do	11
5	Cows a \$9 Each	45
3	Steers a 7 Do	21
6	Year Olds a \$4.50 Each	27
2	Calves at 1.25 each	3 75
9	Hogs a 2,50 Do	22 50
16	Shoats a 75 Do	12
5	Hogs a 2,00 Do	10
1	Gray Mare	70
1	Bay Horse	85
8	Hogs in woods (described)	12
4	Shoats Do & Do	2
21	Sheep a 1.00 Each	21
1	Windmill	10
3	Forks	1
2	Dung Hooks	50
1	Cutting Box	50
1	Tub & 1 Plane	1
1	Half Bushel	37
18	Geese a 25 Ct each	4 50
2	Barrels 75 2 Tubs 50	1 25
1	Loom and Hackling	4
1	Apple Mill [probably for cider]	2
2	Old Barrels	50
1	Crosscut Saw	3 50
1	Vise & Iron wedge	50
1	Log Chain	50
(?)	Bed & Furniture	140
1	Bed	18
1	Bureau	8
1	Leaf Table	5
3	Books	75
1	German Bible	5 50
1	Brass Kettle	12
5	Bags of Wool	15
2	Spinning Wheels	2
8	Bee Baskets	75
10	Chairs	2 50
1	Reel 1 small wheel	2

1 Large wheel	1
2 Bottles	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cups & Saucers	1
1 Cupboard & Contents	20
Kitchen Furniture	12
1 Table	1 50
1 Tub & Chair (or chain)	75
2 Slates	25
2 Kegs	75
1 Cow Bell	50
1 Old Wagon	8
1 Iron Dog	75
1 Crow Bar	75
Milch Crock	1

Edw McDonald  
(name illegible)  
George McDonald

The written is a True Inventory of the Personnal Estate of Mark Bigler Decd as far as has come to my knowledge

Jacob Bigler Excr

At Botetourt December Court, 1826<sup>th</sup>

Mark Bigler III was born in 1788. He appears to have bought 150 acres in 1821 or 1826 about one mile from his father's farm, (1) and a second tract of 150 acres adjacent to the first in 1836. He lived in a four-room log cabin on one of these tracts after his marriage to Mary Peters in 1827. This log cabin is still standing but in 1908 a front was added to constitute the present white frame house shown in plate A. It is not known when the log cabin was built but a stone in one of the chimneys bears the date 1800.

Mark Bigler III was a blacksmith. Longhand records of his blacksmith accounts are still in possession of his granddaughter Emma Bigler Merrey. He died Dec. 12, 1840 and was buried in Mt. Union Presbyterian Cemetery across the road from his farm. His wife continued to live on the home place and take care of her children after her husband's death, with the help of an old negro, "Black Sam" (who was not a slave). His 300-acre farm was divided among his widow (who received a widow's dower) and his children. His house and 85 acres of his original farm are owned today by the four daughters of Mark IV. The children of Mark Bigler III and Mary Peters Bigler were: Lucinda, Eliza Anna, Charlotte, Catherine, George, Susan and Mark IV. George (see photo Plate A), Charlotte and Susan eventually went to live in Auburn, Sagamon Co., Illinois.

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(1) Emma Bigler Merrey says the family has a paper indicating he was sueing for title of 150 acres in 1821, and another paper indicating a deed of trust dated 1826.

Mark Bigler IV was born May 18, 1841 on his father's home place where he lived until his death April 6, 1905. He served as a private for three and one-half years with Company K, 28th Virginia Infantry, during the Civil War. National Archives records (Envelope 144) indicate that he enlisted July 25, 1861 at Amsterdam, Virginia for one year; that he was confined to the hospital at Petersburg and Richmond from Oct. 16, 1861 to Feb. 10, 1862; and that thereafter he was "present" on muster rolls of Company K throughout the war until Jan. 23, 1865 when he was reported as "absent on furlough of indulgence". His daughter, Emma Bigler Merrey, wrote me that he suffered many hardships during the Civil War, such as being without food and clothing; that he was in Pickett's Division at Gettysburg but did not go into battle because he had no shoes; and that he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 18th Regiment of the 26th Brigade, Fifth Division of the Virginia Militia on July 18, 1866. There is no other information in his military dossier at the National Archives. It would have been very interesting had he kept a diary of his experiences as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.

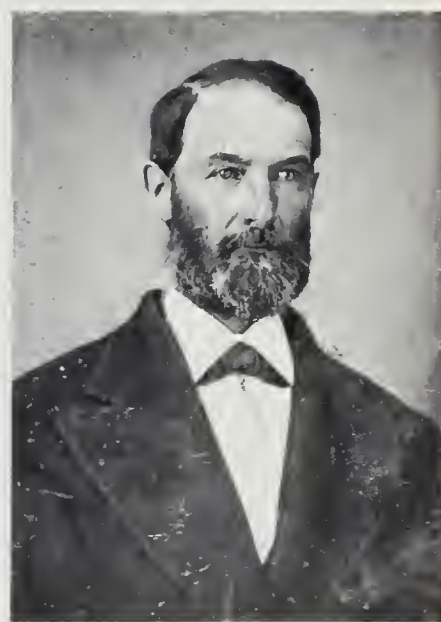
Mark Bigler IV was a cabinet maker, carpenter, undertaker, Justice of the Peace, and an elder in the Mt. Union Presbyterian Church. He died April 6, 1905 and his wife (Ann Eliza Smith) on Jan. 16, 1928. Both are buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery,

Mark and Eliza Bigler had seven children, all born on the farm of Mark III where he himself was born, namely: Nora, Ida, Frank, Harman, Emma, Ruth and Irene. Nora married Samuel K. Dodds and lived in Auburn, Illinois (but now lives in Oregon with her son Samuel K. Dodds Jr.) Frank lived on his father's farm and was an undertaker until his death in 1938. Emma, before her marriage to George E. Merrey, attended normal school and business college, taught grade school and worked for eight years with the Continental Can Company. Her husband was plant manager for the company's plants in Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., and Roanoke, Va. and Bedford, Va. Since retirement they have been living on her father's (Mark IV) farm at Troutville, now owned by her and her three sisters. Ruth, a registered nurse, now living at 803 Graydon Ave., Norfolk, Va., worked for Dr. Fitchett for almost 36 years and never missed a day from illness. When she learned of this Bigler history, she wrote, "We have never found a member of the family that we are ashamed to have on the family tree." Many years ago she nursed Mr. Oscar B. Ryder, former Chairman of the U. S. Tariff Commission, and his wife Nanine (both good friends of ours in Washington, D.C.) who told us that she was an excellent nurse. Harman, a rural mailcarrier at Troutville, Va., had two children: Harman Paul, who served with the U.S. Army in China and Korea (ending with rank of Major) and is now chief structural engineer with the architectural and engineering firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern of Roanoke, Va.; and Margaret Ruth, a graduate of William and Mary College, now living in Roanoke. Photos of Mr. & Mrs. George E. Merrey, Ruth Bigler, and Mr. and Mrs. Harman Paul Bigler appears on Plate B.

Home of  
Mark Bigler II  
near  
Troutville, Va.  
1959



Mt. Union Presbyterian Church



George Bigler, son  
of Mark Bigler III

Home of  
Mark Bigler III and IV  
near  
Troutville, Va.  
1959









Mr. and Mrs. Harman  
Paul Bigler (1953)  
Roanoke, Va.



Ruth Bigler, d. Mark IV



George and Emma  
Bigler Merrey



III. JACOB BIGLER - SON OF MARK I

Jacob Bigler, another son of the immigrant Mark Bigler, lived most of his adult years near Shinston, Harrison County, West Virginia. One of his descendants, Walter M. Elliott, wrote that:

"Jacob Bigler, a Revolutionary soldier, and his wife Hannah Booher Bigler lived in a log house on West Fork river about one mile above Enterprise (unincorporated), Harrison County, West Virginia, and on the opposite side of the river from State Road No. 19. This log house was torn down some years ago by George W. Harrison, a subsequent owner, and a new concrete dwelling house built in its stead within a few feet of the old house. Almost opposite this site, across and above the county road, Jacob Bigler was buried. The small graveyard was about 200 feet from the present county road in an old orchard and about in line with the fifth row of trees from the road. There were not more than six or eight persons buried in this graveyard, and the graves were marked with native stone or flag rock ... There is nothing left to indicate a burying ground and the exact location of the grave of Jacob Bigler is not known. In the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, which is located between the orchard graveyard (now gone) and Enterprise, a monument has been erected in memory of Jacob Bigler. Hannah Booher Bigler is buried at the Righter graveyard near Saltwell." (1)

The story of Jacob Bigler's life - and of his sons Mark and Jacob who adopted the Mormon faith and whose descendants now live in Utah - is best told in the Journal of his grandson Henry William Bigler: (2)

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(1) Account by Walter M. Elliott (son of Bathsheba Ann Martin Elliott, daughter of Charlotte Smith Martin, gr. daughter of Jacob Bigler of Shinston, Harrison County, W. Va.) 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va., dated 1932, with biodata on Jacob and Hannah Booher's children. When I first saw this account in the home of Perry Bigler, Marianna, Penn., Nov. 1958, I noted that one of Jacob and Hannah Bigler's sons, Jacob, died at Farmington, Utah, Sept. 2, 1859. I then wrote my friend Dale Clark of Farmington, who gave me the address of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler of West Jordan, Utah who first told me of the Mormon branch of the Bigler family. Heretofore, the Ohio Biglers (descendants of Israel Bigler of Washington Co., Penn.) had not known of the existence of their kinsmen in Utah. Mr. Elliott sent me a second copy of his account on Sept. 9, 1959. The Boston Evening Transcript, Nov. 3, 1933 contains a short note on Jacob Bigler of Harrison County, W. Va., signed E.S.S., which is nearly identical with Walter M. Elliott's account.

(2) This Journal covering a long span of years and written before 1900, is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler, 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah. Mr. Bigler is a fifth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Bigler and to Brigham Young University for the extracts from the Journal quoted in this chapter. Portions of this diary were published in Utah Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 5, April to July 1932.

U.S. Census of 1785 reported a Jacob Biglar (4 whites and one dwelling) in Harrison Co. in that year. Henry Haymond, History of Harrison County, Acme Publishing Co., Morgantown, W. Va., 1909 quotes Thomas Cheney's list of "tithables for 1785" from the mouth of West Fork River up to Simpson's Creek including Valley River which list includes Jacob Biglar, p. 275.

"My grandfather (Jacob Bigler) was born about the years 1752 or 3 in Bucks County Pennsylvania. He married Hannah Booker or Boothe about the year 1780 and lived in Summerset (Somerset) County that State, their first child was born they called Sarah and in 1782 Grandfather emigrated to Harrison County Virginia (now W. Va.) and settled on West Fork River, the country was new and Sparsely Settled and the Indians troublesome, frerrequently making raids on the weak settlements, killing and Scalping or taking captives. I remember hearing grandfather Say he had worke on his farm having his gun near at hand and when plowing had it attached to the beam of his plow not knowing what moment he would want to use it to Save his scalp. Grand father Sometimes worked at the Coopering business and it was Said he was industrious, jovial and fond of a Dram but never quarrelsome and a relative in a letter to me describes him in the following words, "He was a quiet man, Short and heavy set, handsome and a full blooded Dutchman". He died in September 1829 aged about 76 and I well remember being at the funeral. He died with Canker in the mouth. He was buried in his apple orchard."

"My grand mother Bigler was a mixture of dutch and welch and is described as being tall and slender, hair red and tolerable handsome, intelligent, industrious, and enterprising. I remember hearing her Say that the first time she ever Saw grandfather was at a house raising where she was assistant Cook. He had on a read coat and was one of the cornerman with ax in hand and as soon as She Saw him She knew he was to be her Husband, She said that when She was a young woman that the women went out into the havest field and helped to reap the grain that She had reaped many a day that the farmers, men and women met together beginning with the wheat most forward and So continue intil the grain was in the Shock, each young woman choosing her partner to reap by her side, in those early days it was the sickle and reap hook Cradles and reaping machines was not known. Grand mother Bigler was born about 1760 and died the 18th July 1853 aged a little over 93 years.

"The following are the names and ages of their children in the order they were born. All born in Harrison County Virginia exept the first born, namely.

Sarah or as She was usualy called Sally, born 30th April 1780 in Summerset County, Pennsylvania.

2nd	Hannah,	born,	30th January 1783.
3d,	Mark	"	19th May 1785
4	Ruth	"	28th April 1788
5	Nancy	"	29th Nov. 1790
6	Jacob	"	9th June 1793
7	Henry	"	24th April 1796
8	Bathsheba	"	29th June 1798
9	Mariah	"	29th January 1801

If I remember right they had a little girl they called, Rebecca, it had a Hair lip and died when an infant.

"Grand mother Bigler had a brother and Sister who came to Virginia with her and grandfather, namely Henry Booker and Barbary a widow She had married a man by the name of Hutchison."

Jacob Bigler served for some time as a private soldier during the Revolutionary War, in one of the eight German Battalions raised in Pennsylvania and Maryland under Resolution of Congress of May 25 and June 27, 1776. He enlisted as a private on July 28, 1776 in the Sixth Company of the German Regiment of Foot commanded by Col. Baron Arendt--sometimes referred to as Capt. George P. Keepport's First German Battalion of Continental Troops of Maryland. He is reported as having left the Company on Oct. 1, 1776 but his name appears again on the Company muster rolls of May 22, 1777 and July 18, 1777. (1)

Of the nine children of Jacob and Hannah Booker (or Booher) Bigler who reached maturity, two--Mark and Jacob--adopted the Mormon faith and moved west. Bathsheba remained in Harrison Co., near where one of her descendants Walter W. Elliott is living (at Clarksburg W. Va.). Probably some of the other children remained in that vicinity but little information is available about them. (2)

Mark Bigler's family (Jacob G., Bathsheba, Melissa Jane)

Mark Bigler had a medium sized farm in Harrison Co., and negro slaves to assist him in the work. He was the first of the Biglers to adopt the Mormon faith, being baptized in Harrison Co., Sept. 23, 1834, only four years after establishment of the Mormon Church. In the words of Henry Bigler's Journal:

"At the time the Elders made their appearance in the neighborhood /Mormon missionaries in Harrison Co., in 1834/ the inquiry was who are they and where did they come from and my Uncle Mark Bigler who was always full of his fun and had no faith in any religion and had been heard to say he would go four miles the darkest night he ever saw to see an old heaghatt. I was at work for my uncle at the time the inquiry was made and asked where did these Mormon Elders come from? My uncle said they had come from the moon and had found a new road to Heaven 400 miles nearer than the old route. But how did they get down? The answer was they greased themselves and slid down a rainbow. But up to this time he had not heard them preach. He soon went to hear them and believed their preaching.

(1) National Archives, Washington, card number 37063025 - 3179 - 191970. Also Archives of Maryland 18:263. Elliott's account cited above says that this Jacob Bigler who served in the Revolution was the son of the immigrant Mark Bigler. Elliott does not indicate how he knew that the Jacob Bigler, son of Mark Bigler, was the same Jacob Bigler who served in the German Regiment.

(2) Jacob Bigler's will dated May 29, 1829, filed at the Court House of Harrison Co., W. Va. and reproduced in Brough's, Freely I Gave, mentions Jacob Bigler's wife, Hannah, his children Mark, Jacob, Sarah Ross, Hannah McCowly, Ruth Whiteman, Anne Whiteman, Mariah Flowers, and his granddaughter Charlotte Smith. Information in Henry Bigler's Journal concerning the life of Jacob Bigler, and the dates of birth and death of his children, is substantially the same as that of Elliott's account.

He invited them to his house". (1)

Mark accompanied by his son Jacob G. left Harrison Co. in March 1838 for Far West Mo. where the Prophet Joseph Smith was establishing a large Mormon settlement. There Jacob G. was baptized into the Mormon faith, June 10, 1838. After buying a 240 acre farm for \$2,000 for himself and his father at Far West, Jacob G. returned to Harrison Co. for his mother and unmarried sisters--Sarah, Bathsheba and Melissa Jane--who accompanied him back to Far West, Mo. in the fall of 1838. When mob persecution forced the Mormon Church to leave Far West, they went first to Quincy, Ill. where Mark Bigler died suddenly, Sept. 23, 1839. When the Mormons moved to Nauvoo, on the Illinois side of the great bend of the Mississippi River, Jacob G. with his mother and sisters accompanied them to Nauvoo in the spring of 1840.

Jacob G. Bigler (photo Plate A). The ensuing years were for Jacob G. Bigler and his Mormon brethren years of cruel hardship, unbelievable fortitude and enduring faith as told with eloquence in Franklin Keith Brough's Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler. Mr. Brough a great grandson of Jacob G. and Amy Lorette Bigler, born at Nephi, Utah in 1923, (present address, 4233 Mars Way, Salt Lake City) has devoted careful historical research to this work which portrays something of the vision, courage and faith that enabled Jacob G. Bigler and his associates to survive the persecution, to meet the hardships and to build a community based on the principles in which they believed.

Of Jacob G. Bigler's life, I shall mention only a few facts from Mr. Brough's book. His first wife died of "the fever" at Nauvoo, Oct. 1842. Shortly after his marriage to Amy Chase at Nauvoo, June 18, 1844, the Prophet Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob. Soon after Jacob and Amy's first child was born on Feb. 8, 1846, the Mormons were forced by mobs to leave Nauvoo. Jacob G., his wife and baby, crossed the Mississippi River and began the long hard journey to Winter Quarters (now Omaha) Nebraska Territory which they reached Aug. 18, 1846. There Jacob G's mother died on Mar. 14, 1847 of consumption undoubtedly incurred by hardships of the trail. Jacob G. remained with his family at Winter Quarters and across the Missouri River at Kanessville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa until 1852. During this period he was ordained a Bishop of the Church in charge of the administration of tithes, and was elected probate judge of Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Jacob G. Bigler's family joined the Gardner company of 1852--consisting of 241 people, 45 wagons, 41 yoke of oxen, 21 horses, 96 cows, 117 calves, 91 sheep, 29 firearms and 184 dollars in cash--that made the 1,000 mile trek over the hot plains from Kanessville, Iowa (leaving there June 10) across Nebraska to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and thence through Fort Bridger to Salt Lake City which they reached in mid-September. Their cattle swam across the Missouri River which was over a half mile wide at the crossing. Some members of

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(1) Brough, Freely I Gave, Life of Jacob G. Bigler, Grit Printing Co., Wichita, Kansas, 1958.

the company died of cholera. Travelling along the Platte River, Jacob was forced to pull his wagon aside, while his wife gave birth to a daughter, Amy Lorette, on July 17, 1852. When the wagon train reached the mountains, they encountered a 5-inch snowfall. Finally in mid-September they arrived at Salt Lake City, founded five years before.

Jacob G. and his family proceeded to Nephi, Juab Co., Utah, a small pioneer settlement then only one year old, which they reached Oct. 18, 1852. Here they spent the rest of their lives, contributing in full measure to the building of a happy and prosperous community. In Nov. 1852, Jacob G. was ordained a Bishop of Juab Co. by his brother-in-law George A. Smith. He served in six sessions of the territorial legislature between 1853 and 1868. When Federal authorities persecuted the Mormons in 1858, he and other bishops were forced to flee to the mountains for six months to avoid arbitrary imprisonment. With a change in Federal policy, he returned to his home, to be elected Mayor of Nephi in 1859. He was absent from Nephi from April 1861 to Sept. 1863, serving as a Mormon missionary in Ireland and England. He served as Probate Judge of Juab Co., Feb. 1864-April 1876; was appointed by President Brigham Young as the first President of the Juab Stake Sept. 20, 1868; and was called to be Patriarch of the Juab Stake in July 1877, a position he held for 30 years. In carrying out these responsibilities, Mr. Brough says: "Bishop Bigler wanted always to help others lift themselves to higher things. He was always positive in thought and action. He pointed out the better way of life. It was his constant effort to inspire the people so that their land, through their faith, would be a blessing to them. Above all, he wanted unity among people."

The human qualities of Jacob G. Bigler are apparent from his many deeds and words. When Indians around Nephi sorely tried the settlers' patience in 1855, he advised moderation. He recorded in his diary: "Indians quite saucy, shooting arrows into squashes, picking our peas, etc. ... I counselled the saints to be prayerful and keep the spirit of the Lord and not let our feelings be excited or do anything to the Indians which we would sorrow for in a day to come. Although they are saucy, steeling our grain, destroying our melons, pumpkins and squash, and once in a while steel a beef animal, we have got to bare with them ... and show them that we are their friends." (Brough, p. 80)

Jacob G. although firm was somewhat easygoing and liked to tell jokes and stories. When he did, everyone stopped what they were doing and listened. His grandchildren often met with him at the post office on Sundays when all would go to pick up their mail. In Mr. Brough's words: "He seemed tall and stately to them as he wore a cape lined with red flanel. Proudly they would say, 'Hello Grandfather'. And Jacob was always happy to see them. He would bend down and give them a big kiss. And with his long white beard, this doubtless tickled the children. If the grandchildren stopped at the house, Amy always had doughnuts or cookies with which to treat them."

He lived in Nephi (but had 2 farms west of town) where there were rows of beautiful roses down the walk in front of the house. He had brought apple cuttings from Virginia to Nephi. He was especially fond of his well-cared-for, irrigated, garden where he raised currants, raspberries,

gooseberries, strawberries, fruits and vegetables. Mr. Brough says that as his strength left him, he would still work when he could in his garden. He would sit on an old chair in the garden as he hoed his raspberries, and after a while he would become very tired. Then he would lie down, his wife would bathe his feet and comb his hair and beard to comfort him as best she could. His mission in life was completed Feb. 23, 1907. And fifteen weeks later, on June 8, 1907, Amy Lorette joined her husband in the life beyond.

Bathsheba Bigler (photo Plate A). Bathsheba, the daughter of Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler, was born at Shinston, Harrison Co., W. Va., May 3, 1822. She accompanied her brother Jacob G. to Far West, Missouri, in 1838. She was married to George A. Smith, a cousin of the Prophet Joseph Smith, on July 25, 1841 at Nauvoo, Ill., by Elder Don Carlos Smith, who was a brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith. George A. Smith became a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and later a counselor of President Brigham Young (Brough p. 11).

Bathsheba Bigler Smith served the Mormon Church in many capacities, including the Presidency of the General Relief Society. She died at Salt Lake City, Sept. 10, 1910. A short sketch of her life (as copied by one of her granddaughters, Irene Merrill Richards, 105 South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, from the notes of another granddaughter Alice Merrill Horne) follows:

"June 26-1895. Grandmother B. B. Smith dictated her life and Alice Horn her granddaughter wrote up a "Sketch of the Life of Bathsheba Smith" as follows:

Bathsheba W. Smith the daughter of Mark and Susanah Ogden Bigler, was born near Shinston Harrison Co, West Virginia, May 3d 1822. Her father came from Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent. By occupation he was a farmer and stock raiser. Susanah came from Maryland. She was pious and gentle, had southern hospitality and generous qualities, adept and artistic with her needle. Both families through concienacious motives had given their slaves freedom.

Bathsheba's parents gave their children the schooling available in a new country. The country was hilly and the roads were of a primitive character, the mode of travel was chiefly on horseback. In this Bathsheba excelled. She grew up in a family of seven. During her 15th year some Latter Day Saints came preaching, and she believed what was taught. In answer to prayer, she received an abiding testimony that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Lord and that the book of Mormon was a divine record. The Elder George A. Smith became acquainted with the Bigler family. On the 21 of August 1837, with most of her family she was baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Soon after this her father sold his home and took his family to Missouri. On arriving they found the state preparing to war against the Saints. A few nights before they reached Far West they camped with a company of eastern saints but seperated, choosing different ferries over Grand River. The company in which the Biglers traveled arrived safely. But the others were overtaken by a mob and 17 were killed and others wounded at Hauns Mill. A few days after they arrived in Far West, there was a battle and David Patten was wounded, and brought to the house where the Biglers were staying. Bathsheba witnessed the death of this beloved apostle. The Prophet, patriarch and others were taken to prison, and the saints had to leave the state. In the spring great



was their joy to have them returned to the saints at Quincy, Ill.

In 1840 the Biglers moved to Nauvoo, where Bathsheba had many opportunities to hear the Prophet preach, and was privileged to become acquainted with his family.

She married George A. Smith in July 25th 1841, after his return from a two years mission in England. On the 20th of March 1842, Bathsheba by special invitation attended the first organization of Relief Society, and became a charter member.

In July 1842 their son Geo. A. was born and in two months later her husband went on a mission in the eastern states.

They recieved their endowments Jan. 31, 1844. Bathsheba heard the Prophet charge the twelve with the duty and responsibility of the ordinances and sealing for the living and dead.

In the spring of 44, Geo. A. went on another mission and soon after persecution began in the city of Nauvoo and ended in the martyrdom of our beloved Prophet and Patriarch. Geo. A. returned about the 1st of Aug. and on the 14th our daughter was born and we named her Bathsheba. They with many others left Nauvoo, and crossed the Mississippi, left a comfortable home, the accumulation of four years. Our parlor was turned into a paint shop to prepare wagons for the journey West. We took some clothes and bedding and a few provisions, and left everything to our enemies. We crossed over on the ice as did hundreds of families.

My mother died on the 11 of March 1846, /March 14, 1847 according to Brough p. 347 and in April my son John was born, he only lived four hours. I was sick for a longtime. July 1st 1846, about 300 miles from Nauvoo we were met by a military officer of the U.S. who made a demand of 500 men to go to the Mexican War. Four of our teamsters went to help make up the quota. Geo. A. started in April with the pioneers for the West, and left us at Winter Quarters. After he returned we all started west in June of 1849. Pres. Polk at different times, acknowledged to some of our people that he was indebted to the Mormon people in the state of N.Y. for his election. By raising wheat corn, buckwheat potatoes and other vegetables and making elderberry and raspberry wine, and preserving plums and other fruit we were able to get rid of scurvey. We planted and others who came after us reaped the prairie.

In Sept. 1848 a conference was held in a grove on Misquit Creek, about 2000 saints were present. Cowdry, one of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon was there. He had been ten years away from the church and had become a lawyer of some promenance in Ohio and Wisconsin. At this conference I heard him bear his testimony to the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon as is recorded in the testimony of the three witnesses in that book.

Indians, Ute and Sioux bothered us. It took lots of time and persuasion for our men to protect our food against these thieves.

About the 1st of Dec. the pioneers returned. They had found a place in the heart of the Great Basin beyond the Rocky Mountains, so barren, dry, isolated, we thought even the religious biggots would not desire to rob us of it. The pioneers had laid out a city and commenced building a fort. I often went with my husband on errands of mercy among the saints.

At Winter Quarters they had built 700 log cabins and one hundred fifty dugouts. Our wagon cover was torn with the wind and we were glad to get into a house again. I was at Hyde Park when through the spirit of the gospel, they decided to organise the first Presidency of the Church according to the pattern laid down by the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenant. The remaining saints were compelled by the Government, so they had to built homes again in Iowa. Many of the families were those of the men who had joined the Battalion of the U.S. to fight Mexico, and who were only waiting the return of their husbands to go west.

We arrived in Salt Lake City, we drove to my Father in laws John Smith Patriarch of the church. There I met my sister Malissa Jane Bigler Lambson and her husband. They invited us to supper. It was a delight to be in a cosy home, with blazing fire on the hearth, where no winters blast or the deserts bleak winds could blow smoke into ones eyes, or strew ashes on ones shoulders. We lived in our wagons until my husband build a comfortable room for us.

We took up land over Jordon, fenced it and sewed wheat. All this was destroyed by rising water which over flowed the banks. We rented land higher up in Cottonwood, plowed and sewed it. From this he obtained flour for a year. Geo. A. nearly build a home for me but was called south to build a settlement 150 miles away. Father Smith invited us to stay with him which we did, but we furnished our own provisions and I did the work for the family.

My house was finished and I moved into it on March 20, 1857. We made carpets. I spun flax and made the cloth we needed. Our children were glad to be in their own house where they could entertain their friends. They had nice voices and George played the flute and drum. We had many pleasant evenings. George worked at the printing press for \$200 a year.

My son was set apart for a Mission to the Indians. He played his flute, and the Indians became angry because the soldiers who had just passed thru (played the flute also) had killed some of the indians, so they shot him as he was taking his horse to water. Jacob Hamblin who was in charge of the Mission put George on his horse and fled for their lives. When he died Hamblin buried him in his Novajo blanket, in a shallow grave. A posse left Salt Lake for his body, but they recovered only three bones and a lock of hair and his hat, Jan. 3d 1861. Our daughter was married to Clarence Merrill and moved to Fillmore in 1865.

Our daughter had 14 children. I was happy to have 4 of them live with me, so they could have advantage of the University in those early days, until they moved to Salt Lake finally.

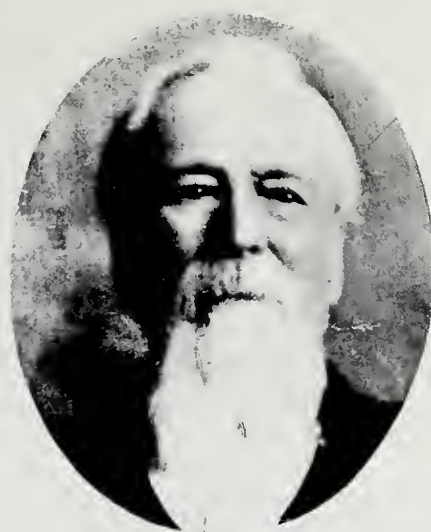
1870. I made a tour to Colorado, and up the Virgen River, Long Valley, Kanab and St. George, with my husband, Pres. Young and party.

1872. Geo. A. went to Europe and Jerusalem and Cairo, Paris. He was gone 8 months. Leila, Bathsheba's daughter, was with me part of the time. In Nov. '73, I spent the winter in St. George. I have visited the saints through Utah. I was secretary of the 17 Ward Relief Society, and councellor to Sister Grant in the 13 ward. I was a councellor to sister Horne in the Senior Retrenchment Society. My husband was not well. We did all we could. He died on Sept. 1st, 1875 at the Historians Office.

Since that time Bathsheba Bigler Smith had spent her life as ever for others Family, Temple and Relief Society, being President of the General Relief Society (the first society of its kind in history) for ten years. She died Sept. 20, 1910, at Salt Lake City, at her daughter Bathsheba Merrills home, at the age of 88 years. She was the first woman to have her funeral service in



Bathsheba Bigler,  
wife of George A.  
Smith, Utah



Jacob G. Bigler,  
of Nephi, Utah

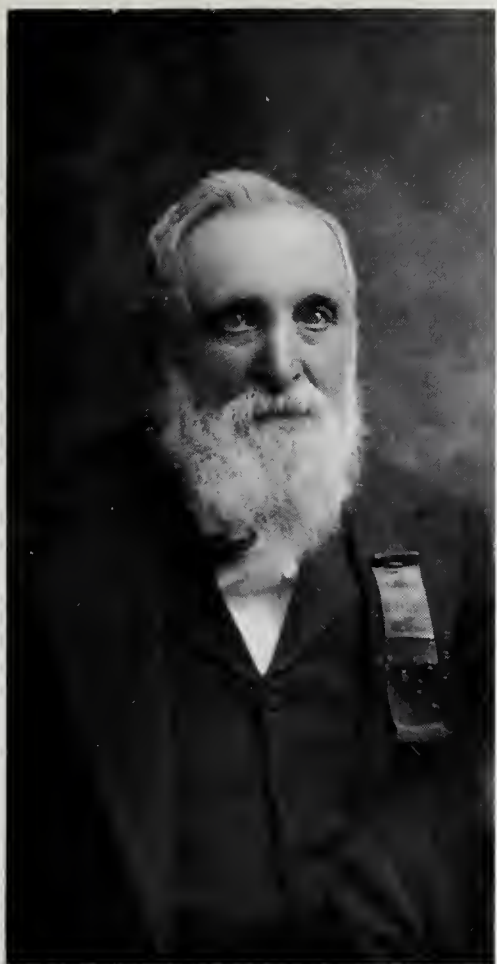


Louis Burtran Bigler II family, Oct. 1953

From l. to r: Louis Burtran Bigler II and wife Hazel; Richard Bigler and wife Arlene; Carolyn and Marilyn, daughters of Darlene; Darlene Bigler Williams.

B. row l. to r: Louis Burtran III; Anna Gae Bigler and her husband Robert Melroy; Barbara and husband David Louis Bigler; Wallace L. Williams husband of Darlene Bigler.





Henry W. Bigler,  
of St. George, Utah,  
Jan. 24, 1898



Adam C. Bigler,  
Farmington, Utah



Mr. and Mrs. Horace J. Bigler,  
Salt Lake City, 1944



the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Pres. Joseph F. Smith presiding."

Melissa Jane Bigler. Melissa also accompanied her brother Jacob G. Bigler to Far West, Missouri, in 1838. She married Alfred B. Lambson and eventually went to Salt Lake City. Two of her daughters, Julina and Edna, married Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of the Mormon Church.

Jacob Bigler and his son Henry William

Jacob Bigler, like his brother Mark, was also a farmer in Harrison Co., W. Va. One may gather an impression of his life from the Journal of his son Henry.

"My father and mother was married 24th of May 1814. My mothers maiden name was Elizabeth but usually they called her Betsy, She was the daughter of Basil and Poly Harvey, She was born 10th January 1794 in Montgomery County Maryland and the following are the names of father and mothers children.

Henry William born 28th August 1815.

Polly born 15th January 1818.

Hannah " 24th June 1820

Emeline " 21th of August 1824.

Bathsheba born at the close of 1826 or the forepart of 1827. My parents were poor but honest and religiously inclined they taught me my first letters and when old enough sent me to School one mile on away taught by a methodist preacher by the name of David Masters. School in them days were poorly provided for there were no black boards used, no Seats with backs, the Seats were rough benches Supported upon great wooden legs inserted into 2 inch auger holes and So high that little childrens feet would not reach the floor."

"School houses were built of unhewed logs, the floor made of puncheons, the doors made of clapboards and hung on wooden hinges and to admit light into the School room an opening was made between two logs nearly the whole length of the School house and papered up, a large fire place between the jambs and in cold weather a huge fire made of logs in front of which could stand half a dozen or more children and warm at the Same time Spelling, reading, writing and to cipher as far as the Rule of three on proportion was a finished education. Grammar and geography was not taught in the Schools I went to.

"In the winter season farmers were up at an early hour, Stock fed and breakfast eaten by candlelight and the men off to work in their clearings and the children at an early hour off to School. Land was cleared by grubing up the under brush, chopping down the trees, trimming up the brush and pileing it in brush heaps and when it be came dry it was burned mostly at night when there was but little wind and it was fine sport for children to them it was a fine sight to see the flames Shoot up So high as to lighten up the Surroundings almost light as day. the logs were rolled into heaps this was called 'Log-rollings' a day being appointed when men of the neighborhood came

together and with their hand spikes rolled the logs into heap ready to be burned.

"Rails made and the ground fenced in and made ready for the plow. The people made their own clothing and in almost every family was a loom, flax and tow linen for Shirts, linsey for womens dresses and mens clothing Almost every head of a family was his own Shoemaker and I remember my father making what was called 'Shoepacks' made by sewing the upper and Sole leather together and when finished they looked Some what like a mocassin and in the Summertime, men, women and Children went bare footed, this was Said to be turning feet out to grass, and often on the Sabbath day the women carried their Shoes and Stockings in their handkerchiefs almost to where meeting was to be held for worship and then Sit down on a log by the wayside and put them on. Household furniture was plain and Simple. I never Saw a Cooking stove before I was twenty years old It was the Skillet, bake oven, iron pot and frying pan and in cold weather corn bread was baked on a board in front of the fire, this was called, 'johney cake' and the board called johney cake board and always kep handy to use for that purpose for baking johney cake.

"The country where I lived was new and game plentiful and at proper season of the year my fathers table was supplied with fat venison, wild turkey and honey taken from the bee trees found in the woods.

"When acorns and nuts were plentiful it was called mast year and the farmers hogs runing at large in the woods fattened on them. I took delight to gather nuts of various kinds, chesnuts, hickory and walnuts and especially blackwalnuts and Store them away in father's loft to crack and eat in the winter. The month of August and fore part of September was the time to diggin Sang and snake root, they were articles the merchants readily exchanged goods for. Sang was found in the woods in the rich heads of hollows or in the most fertile parts while Snake root was found on thiner Soil among the beech timber Sang was easily discovered by its rich yellow leaves and red berries that grew on Stalks about a foot high. In the fall season when the leaves on the trees and bushes were prity much all off, hunting for deer began ... Bears would climb chestnut trees to get the chestnuts this was called, 'Lopping time' for with their stong paws they would lop or bend in the limbs to get the nuts and become so fat that when Shot and falling to the ground I have heard it Said, that they would burst. Wild turkeys the same way. Turkeys were often caught in pens Sometimes almost a whole flock at a time. My father was a great hunter for deer and for bee trees and being a chip of the old block I became fond of hunting and when about 17 years old my father made me the owner of a Rifle and like Daniel Boon the old Kentucky pioneer when young Spent much of my time hunting [here long account about hunting deer at a salt lick and bear].

"The last of February and the first of March was the time for making sugar from the sugar trees and before the time come to open camp for making sugar troughs were made and placed at the sugar trees and spiles already made and when the time come for opening camp the trees were tapted



by boring auger holes, and with a light mallet or hatchet the piles were driven into the holes, the troughs holding from two to three gallons (sic) of sugar water, the kettles kept boiling day and night when there was a good run of Sugar water and every day sugar was made from 10, 20 and 30 pounds sugar made every day according to the supply of water from the Sugar trees, at such times every body who happened to be present children and all was made welcome to eat all the new sugar they wished. I was always delighted when Sugar making time came although it was hard work to gather Sugar water when there was a good run and to keep the kettles (3, 4 and 5) boiling which was done day and night."

Jacob's first wife, Elizabeth Harvey, died on Nov. 13, 1827, when their son Henry was 12 years old. Henry says in his Journal: "her funeral was preached by Levi Shinn a minister of the 'new light' as they were called, they believed in baptism by emersion. I do not remember that my mother belonged to any Church but from the fact that her funeral was preached by Mr. Shinn I am lead to think She believed in baptism in its true mode."

Jacob joined the Mormon Church (date not known) and Henry was baptized into that faith in July 1837. Then, Jacob his second wife and his entire family of nine children, including Henry, left Harrison Co. in April 1838 to join the Mormon Settlement at Far West, Missouri. The parents and children proceeded overland by wagon; Henry went by steamer from Marietta, down the Ohio River, up the Mississippi to the Missouri River and thence up that River almost to Far West which he reached in June, 1838. When mobs forced the Mormons to evacuate Far West, Jacob and his family moved with the Mormons to Quincy, Ill. in 1839.

Henry William Bigler, son of Jacob (photo Plate B). Soon after the move to Quincy in 1839, Henry received his first missionary assignment, working in St. Louis, Harrison Co. W. Virginia, and Indiana. Upon his return to Nauvoo, he was sent forth again with his cousin Jacob G. Bigler. Henry engaged in mission activity in Athens Co., Ohio, in Jackson Co., Va., and was in Virginia in July 1844 when all missionaries were recalled to Nauvoo following the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

When the Mormons evacuated Nauvoo in 1846, Jacob and his family joined the movement to Kaneshville (Council Bluffs) Iowa. Jacob and family apparently joined the Daniel A. Miller Company and migrated to Utah in 1848 (he is described as a pioneer of Sept. 4, 1848 (1) and settled in Farmington, Utah, where he died Sept. 2, 1859.

Henry reached Kaneshville June 22, 1846, where the Mormon Battalion (500 men under the eventual command of Col. Philip St. George Cook) was being recruited for service in the Mexican War. He enlisted and as stated

(1) Frank Escholm, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, 1913.

in his Journal:

"In July 1846 the Battalion was made up and mustered into service. On the 21st at 12 o'clock we took up line of march for Fort Leavenworth, 200 miles distant, the men keeping time to the tune of 'The Girl I left Behind Me'. To me, as well as to the others, it was a solemn time ... leaving friends, near and dear relatives, not knowing for how long and perhaps to never see them again in this life. I bade my folks farewell and did not see them again for nine years."

Arriving at Fort Leavenworth, "the Battalion drew their clothing, money for the year, \$42 most of which we sent back to our friends to help support them" and on Aug. 13th the Battalion set forth for Santa Fe, 700 miles distant. After incredible hardships, when supplies ran so low the men had to eat the sheep skins used under the pack saddles of their horses, the Battalion reached the Roman Catholic Mission of San Diego, California on Jan. 30, 1847--one of the longest cavalry marches on record in this country. (1)

Fighting in California had ended before the Mormon Battalion arrived there. The Battalion was discharged in 1847 and some members proceeded to Salt Lake City. Others sought employment in California. Among the latter were 9 Mormons from the Battalion, including Henry W. Bigler, employed by James W. Marshall to build a sawmill for Captain Sutter, 45 miles upstream from Capt. Sutter's fort, in the Coloma Valley. Here it was that Marshall discovered gold Jan. 24, 1848--the discovery that started the great California gold rush. The most accurate historical reference to the exact date of discovery is said to be that of Henry W. Bigler's Journal where he (a laborer at the sawmill) wrote:

"Monday 24th this day some kind of mettle was found in the tail race that looks like goald first discovered by James Marshall, the Boss of the Mill". (2)

"Sunday 30th Clear and has been all the last week our metal has been tride and proves to be goald it is thought to be rich we have pict up more than a hundred dollars woth last week" (2)

"February 12, 1848. This afternoon I did not work. I borrowed Brown's gun, saying I would go hunting down the creek for ducks, but in reality to prospect for gold. Half a mile below the sawmill I noticed some bare rocks on the other side of the creek of the same kind as in the tail race, that seemed to say that gold was there. I picked up \$1.50 worth lying on the bare rocks and in the seams." (3)

"Sunday February 20. Went up to my gold mine picked up about \$17 worth." (3)

(1) Paul Bailey, Sam Brennan and the California Mormons, Los Angeles, 1953. B. H. Roberts, The Mormon Battalion, Desert News, Salt Lake City, 1919; Hunt Rockwell, California and Californians, 1930. Vol. II p. 128.

(2) As quoted in Elizabeth L. Egenhoff, The Elephant as They Saw it, Division of Mines, State of California, 1949, p. 31.

(3) As quoted in Leland H. Creer, Founding of an Empire, pp. 255 ff. Henry Bigler's spelling appears to have been "edited" in the Creer quotation.

Later in 1848, after the Sutter sawmill was completed, Henry Bigler went to Salt Lake City. The Church sent him back to California to mine in 1849 but after several months of mining there the Church assigned him to missionary work in the Hawaiian Islands where he arrived Dec. 12, 1850. Returning from Hawaiian mission work, he married Cynthia Jane Whipple in 1855 and settled in Farmington, Utah. After his third child was born in 1859, he was sent again to Hawaii. Returning from that mission he lived in Farmington until after his first wife died in 1874; and again he was assigned to missionary work in Hawaii where he served a total of 11 years.

Returning to Utah, he married Eleanor Emmett in 1878, at the age of 65, and was assigned to temple work at St. George, Washington Co., Utah where he lived quietly until he passed away Nov. 24, 1900. His only living child Eleanor Bigler Hepple, now 79, says of her father "He was quiet, unassuming, did not preach or relate his experiences. If anyone wanted information about his life they would have to come to the house and just dig with questions to get him to talk."

Henry W. Bigler's obituary, as published in the Deseret Evening News, Nov. 26, 1900, follows:

"St. George, Utah, Nov. 24, 1900, 6 P.M. -- Henry W. Bigler died this morning at an early hour, of pneumonia.

The foregoing is a special dispatch to the Deseret News, received late on Saturday evening, announcing the death of one of the notable characters in the history of Western America, one who was a member of the famous Mormon Battalion, who was the first chronicler of the great gold discovery in California and was one of the discoverers, and who was a well known and highly respected pioneer worker in Utah.

Henry W. Bigler was past 85 years at the time of his death. He was born in what is now Harrison County, West Virginia, August 28, 1815. His parents were Jacob and Elizabeth Harvey Bigler.

Early in life, Henry W. Bigler cast his lot with the Latter-day Saints, and gathered with them to Nauvoo. When the call was made for the Mormon Battalion, he was one those exiled saints who enlisted for his country's cause in the war with Mexico, and on July 16, 1846, made the start westward on that unparalleled journey by an infantry force. He was a private in Company B, Mormon Battalion. With the others of that heroic band, he toiled and suffered, and finally triumphed in crossing the country and reaching California to aid in saving it to the great American Republic. Then, after being honorably discharged from service, he started for the Rocky Mountains there to rejoin the body of the Saints.

When this journey was began, word was received that those not provided with sufficient means for the trip should remain in California and earn some. This was the message from the Twelve Apostles, and Henry W. Bigler, being one of the number referred to, accepted the advice.

In the autumn of 1847, Henry W. Bigler received from Apostle George A. Smith the letter that announced to the Battalion members in the locality where he was the fact that on July 24th of that year, President Brigham Young and the Pioneers had arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

With Alexander Stevens, James S. Brown, James Barger, William Johnston, and Azariah Smith, also members of the Battalion, Bigler found employment at Sutter's mill race, on the American river. It was this company that discovered gold, and H. W. Bigler was the first to chronicle the event, the record being made in his diary on the day the precious metal was discovered. It was in January 24, 1848.

In a letter to the "News" written last September, Brother Bigler gave the following account of the gold discovery:

'I well remember all the particulars. By New Year's day, 1848, we had the dam in, and the tail race nearly completed. A man named James Werner had charge of some Indians who were at work, and James W. Marshall, our superintendent, had been in the habit of going down every afternoon to see how the Indians were progressing, for they had struck the bedrock, mostly of rotten granite, and the work was slow; but this time, when he went down, his eye caught the glittering of something that lay in the crevice on the base of the bedrock, a few inches under water. He sent a young Indian to Mr. Brown, who was at work in the mill yard whip-sawing, asking him to send him a tin plate. Brown was a top-sawer; he answered, "I wonder what Marshall wants with a tin plate," but he walked over to our shanty and gave one to the Indian. This was on Monday evening, in January, 1848. As we were quitting work for the day, Marshall came up from the tail race and said he believed he had found a gold mine. Someone remarked, "I guess there is no such luck." Nothing more was said then but just before going to bed, Marshall came into our shanty and said he believed he had found gold near the lower end of the race, that he had tried to melt some of the particles but could not do so; but before leaving us he said, "Brown, I want you and Bigler in the morning to shut down the headgate, throw in some saw-dust, rotten leaves and dirt, and make it all tight and I will see what there is." Next morning we did as directed, and while at work, we saw Marshall pass through the mill-yard and so on down the race. Brown and I went into breakfast, after which all hands went to work at the mill-yard.

'I was busy preparing to blow a blast of powder into the boulder that lay in the tail race near the flutter wheel, when Marshall came up carrying in his arms his old white hat, and with a wide grin, he said, "Boys, I believe I have found a gold mine." at the same time putting his hat on the work bench that stood in the mill-yard. In an instant all hands gathered round him, and sure enough in the top of his hat (the crown being knocked in a little), lay the pure metal. The pieces varied in size from small particles up to the size of a grain of wheat. The most, however, was in thin scales. The coarse pieces were in all shapes. Azariah Smith took from his pocket a \$5 gold piece

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and we compared the two metals. We could plainly see the difference in their looks, which was due to the alloy in the coin. All were satisfied that it was pure gold, though not one in the crowd had ever seen gold before in its natural state. We were invited by Marshall to accompany him back to the spot where he had found it, and there were several other particles in the seams and crevices of the bedrock.

'Mr. Marshall enjoined the mill hands not to say much about the discovery, until he had ascertained how extensive the mine was. Three or four days afterwards we began to be in want of provisions, and Marshall said he would go down to the fort and see why Sutter had not forwarded them. He would also take our gold and have it tested. He was gone a few days, and on his return he was asked what it was. His answer was, "Oh, boys, it is the pure stuff", and continuing, he said, "I and the old captain (meaning Sutter) locked ourselves up in a room and for half a day tried it, and the regulars down there wondered what was up and surmised we had found a quicksilver mine; for he said there was a quicksilver mine found by a woman down towards Monterey; but we let them sweat. We found our gold to agree with the encyclopedia, and we also applied aqua fortis. We then weighed it in water by balancing the dust against silver on a pair of scales held in the air. We let the scales down and when it came in contact with the water the gold went down, the silver up. So we were satisfied it was the pure stuff.'

Soon after the gold discovery, Mr. Bigler started for Utah, and settled in Salt Lake City. He was one of the original owners of lots in the Seventeenth ward.

In 1850, Elder Bigler was one of the missionaries sent to the Sandwich Islands, arriving there Dec. 12, 1850. A number of the missionaries became discouraged, but Elders H. W. Bigler, James Keeler, Wm. Farrer and James Hawkins remained with Elder George Q. Cannon and they successfully opened the Hawaiian mission. With the others, Elder Bigler returned to Utah in 1854.

The subsequent life of the deceased has been one of activity. As a pioneer in Utah, particularly in the southern part of the State, he has been an active, energetic man, well and favorably known. He goes down to the grave full of years and with an honorable record before all who have known him."

#### Present Bigler descendants in Utah, New Mexico and Arizona

Many Bigler descendants now living in Utah are members of the Bigler genealogical association. The President of that association is Mr. Louis Burtran Bigler, Jr. (8650 South 1300 West, West Jordan, Utah) and the Vice President Mr. Horace J. Bigler (2975 Melbourne Street, Salt Lake City). Both have been generous of their time in furnishing information for this chapter on Jacob Bigler's family.

Louis Burtran Bigler (photo Plate A) is a fifth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., West Virginia, through Jacob's son Mark who died in Quincy, Illinois. Louis Burtran was born on his father's farm at Fountain Green, Utah, January 17, 1899. In 1918, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, played in the military band and was a bugler at Fort Douglas, Utah. In 1919-21, he served as a Mormon missionary in Illinois. On December 20, 1922, he married Hazel Anderson, a grand niece of Azariah Smith who worked with Henry W. Bigler at Captain Sutter's sawmill, Jan. 24, 1848. Mr. Louis Burtran Bigler managed a large department store in Spanish Fork, Utah, and later was wholesale manager for the Baldwin Piano Company in the western states until 1930. Since 1938, he has operated his own general agency in Salt Lake City of the General American Life Insurance Co. of St. Louis, Mo. He owns Biglerbrook Jersey Farms at West Jordan, a 40 acre farm with 125 head of registered Jersey cattle, that have won many blue and purple ribbons in the last 18 years. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler are active in the Mormon Church, and were members of the world famous Tabernacle Choir. Mr. Bigler was ordained Bishop of the Wandamere Ward of the Mormon Church in 1952. Mrs. Bigler has served as President of both the Relief Society and the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association of the West Jordan Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler have five children. Darlene, born Oct. 19, 1923, married Wallace L. Williams and now lives in Salt Lake City. Both are professional musicians. Anna Gae, born April 28, 1925, married Robert E. Melroy and also lives in Salt Lake City. She worked as a passenger agent for the United Air Lines for ten years and he is a conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad. David Louis, born May 9, 1927, married Barbara Daynes. He enlisted in the Navy as a radio man 1944-46, received his BA in social science from the University of Utah in 1950, served as communications technician with the Navy during the Korean War 1950-51 and is now assistant manager of public relations of the Salt Lake City office of the United States Steel Company. Richard A., born March 27, 1930, married Arlene Fernley, served as missionary in New Zealand and the Cook Island for three years, graduated with honors in architectural design and city planning from the University of California and is now a member of the landscape architect firm of Charles Everson and Richard Bigler of Hayward, Cal. Louis Burtran, born April 3, 1935, married Elizabeth Hofer, studied at the University of Utah, served in the Naval Reserve for 5 years, was a missionary in the southern states for 2 years and is now a partner in the Biglerbrook Jersey Farms of West Jordan, Utah.

Mr. Horace J. Bigler (photo Plate B) is a fourth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., W. Va., through Jacob's son Jacob who settled in Farmington, Utah. He is the grandson of Adam C. Bigler of Farmington (photo Plate B). Horace Bigler was born Oct. 18, 1901 on his father's farm at Plymouth, Utah and married Marie Schow, April 23, 1927. He graduated from Utah State College and has taught school all his life, now being principal of a junior high school in Salt Lake City. They have a son Glade S. Bigler, recently graduated from law school, who is a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

One of Jacob G. Bigler's sons, Charles Edwin Bigler (b. Dec. 7, 1858 at Nephi, Utah and d. Sept. 30, 1935) lived for many years at Fruitland, New Mexico and in Maricopa County, Arizona, where some of his children were born. It is probable that some of their descendants are still living in those areas.

IV. ISRAEL BIGLER - SON OF MARK I

Israel Bigler was born in 1747. We lack written confirmation on the place of his birth but since his father had bought various tracts of land in Frederick County, Maryland in 1743, 1750 and 1761, it seems probable that he was born and raised in Frederick County.

The first written evidence of his presence there comes from the quaint legal language of an old deed, dated April 11, 1785, where Israel Bigler of Frederick County bought for "sixteen pounds Current Gold and Silver Money ... the two following Lotts of Ground in the Town of Liberty lying and being in Frederick County aforesaid on a draught of Liganore called piney Run, being part of a Tract of Land called Dukes Woods, the aforesaid Lots being N. 195 and 196 ... in the aforesaid Town of Liberty Together with all and Singular the Buildings and Improvements ...." Israel Bigler of Frederick County sold these two lots for "twenty five pounds current Gold and Silver", on April 17, 1789. And "At the same time came Catharine Bigler wife of the said Israel Bigler and being by us [the witnesses] privately examined apart from and out of the Hearing of her said Husband declared that she acknowledged her right of the Lotts within mentioned, and that she did the same freely and voluntarily without being induced thereto by fear or threats of ill Usage from her said Husband or for fear of his displeasure". (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 6:15 and WR 8:486)

On Aug. 6, 1791, Israel Bigler and his neighbors, Thos. Durbin, Jacob Diedor, William Smith, Christopher Erb, John Hull and John Garber, made an agreement that: "whereas we have Lands adjoining each other and being desirous of settling the lines thereof Have agreed and set up stones at the following corners [here a description of where the stones are located] And we further agree that the above lines shall be division lines between us and our Heirs and Assigns forever ...." (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 10:279). This agreement carried a note of finality--it was to run "forever".

Mark Bigler II sold to his brother Israel, on April 13, 1802, the lands he had inherited from his father. On April 7, 1804, Israel Beigler of Frederick Co. and "Catharine Beigler wife of the said Israel Beigler" resold these lands: under one deed to John Garber the tract called Marks Delight and a part of the tract called the Resurvey on Hulls Choice along the great Pipe Creek, containing 100 acres, for 300 pounds current money; and under another deed to George Mouse the tract called Beiglers addition to Hulls Choice and a portion of the Resurvey on Hulls Choice, including Hickory Bottom, containing 169½ acres, for 1450 pounds current money (Frederick Co. Deeds, WR 25:579, 597).

Amanda Bigler Drake's letter to her nephew Israel Bigler in 1907 stated: "My grandfather Israel Bigler bought property in Maryland and married his wife there. Her name was Catherine Garber. All their children were born there. He had four sons who, when they grew up, wanted to go west so they all came to Pennsylvania. Grandfather bought the old homestead [in Washington County] and lived there until his younger son [David

who later migrated to Darke Co., Ohio] came of age. Then he sold his home to his younger son and bought the place where Isaac Bigler now lives [Isaac, son of Benjamin, son of Michael, son of Israel - see photo of log house in Plate VIII where Isaac and Benjamin lived and where Israel probably lived in his old age]. My father [Michael, son of Israel], your Grandfather, bought the land where you live from the Government, went to work and cleared a few acres and put up that log house. You can remember it I suppose. Then he went back to Maryland and married my mother, your Grandmother, whose name was Catherine Booher. They rode from Maryland to Pennsylvania on horseback and brought all their goods on horses. They moved into the little log house where all us children were born, and they lived there until Uncle David sold the place to Father. We moved upon it when I was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years old. Now you can see you belong to the fourth generation that has lived on these farms. I do wish you could buy your place so it would still be in the family. Affectionately your Aunt Amanda Drake". (1)

### Garber Family

Catherine Garber, wife of Israel Bigler, was a daughter of the immigrant Jacob Garber who arrived at Philadelphia on the Patience, Sept. 15, 1753, that sailed from Rotterdam. On this ship were Jacob Garber, age 21, his brother Simon, age 22, another brother Michael age 20, and a Jacob Bickler age 21. (2) Jacob's name appears on the ship passenger list in German script with the German spelling Gerber. The Garber brothers came supposedly from the Palatinate where, according to family tradition, their parents had fled to escape religious persecution in their original home, Basle, Switzerland. The name Garber is very common in the Canton of Berne where the Biglers originated.

There is no known record of Simon and Michael Garber after their arrival at Philadelphia in 1753. Jacob Garber settled eventually near Johnsville, Frederick Co., Maryland where he was a member of the Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren. There is no record of his burial place but many Garbers were interred in the cemetery beside the Beaver Dam Brethren Church. (3) The Garber family historian surmises that one of the unmarked graves in Beaver Dam Cemetery might be that of Jacob Garber. In view of the close relations between the Garber and Bigler families, one wonders whether Mark Bigler I might, also, have been a member of the Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren and whether he, too, might be buried there or in the Pipe Creek Brethren Cemetery.

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(1) Quoted in Clark M. Garber, Garber Historical and Genealogical Record Vol. I, No. 1, 1937, p.101. No. 2, 1938 and No. 3, 1939 - all privately printed). From context of letter she was describing her grandfather Israel Bigler, although at times she had him confused with her great grandfather Mark Bigler I, the immigrant.

(2) Garber, Genealogical Record Vol. I No. 1, p. 13 ff.

(3) Garber, Genealogical Record contains: List of Bigler graves in Franklin Cem., Washington Co. Penn. Vol. I, No. 2, p. 133; List of Garber graves, Beaver Dam Cem., Frederick Co., Md. Vol. I, No. 1, p. 39; and in Vol. I, No. 3, pp. 244, 246 and 248 respectively lists of graves in Washington Co., Penn. at the Ten Mile Church of Brethren, Zollarsville Cem. and the Progressive Brethren Cem.



Jacob Garber (name of wife unknown) had many children, including:

1. Catherine. b. May 10, 1758, probably at Johnsville, Md. m. Israel Bigler.
2. Rev. Jacob. b. near Johnsville, Md. May 14, 1767. Farmer and cobbler, like his father. m. Mary Magdalene Eller\* Dec. 3, 1793 and moved to West Bethlehem twp, Washington Co., Penn. sometime thereafter (possibly 1794) where he bought a farm near Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. He lived there until 1834 when, together with his family, he moved in a Conestoga wagon to Jefferson twp., Richland Co., Ohio where he died Jan. 19, 1852. Among his children were Samuel Bigler Garber (1818-1905) and Michael Garber (father of Daniel, father of Jacob S, father of Clark M. Garber, 87 N. Main St., Butler, Ohio, whose historical research furnished all of the information in this chapter on the Garber family and additional light on the early history of the Bigler family).
3. Barbara. b. 1771, d. 1851. m. Joseph Grable (b. 1778, d. 1844), and had 17 children.
4. Jonathan. b. near Johnsville, Md., Jan. 23, 1774. Farmer and cobbler. m. Elizabeth Hufford and moved to Washington Co., Penn. where he bought a farm near Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. He died July 28, 1850 and was buried on his farm near the Ten Mile Brethren Church.
5. Samuel. m. Anna Mock. d. 1814.
6. - 10. Michael, Henry, Solomon, Simon and John.

Move to Washington Co., Penn.

Israel Bigler appears to have moved from Frederick Co. to Washington Co. in western Pennsylvania in 1804, for beginning in that year we find recorded in the Washington County Court House various deeds--then called "indentures"--of his land transactions, as follows:

1804. Purchase by Israel Beaglear of  $225\frac{1}{4}$  acres in "two tracts or parcels of land situated on the waters of Ten Mile Creek" in Amwell twp (subsequent records would indicate some of this land was in W. Bethlehem twp) on July 14, for \$1571.50.
1806. Purchase by Israel Bigler of a tract "containing 72 acres one rood and 16 perches of land strict measure ... situated on the waters and ten mile Creek called Black Oak flat" in W. Bethlehem twp on Feb. 11, at \$10 per acre - totalling slightly over \$720; and of an adjacent one acre on Nov. 19, 1806 for \$10.
1807. Sale by Israel and Catharine Bigler on May 29 of  $111\frac{1}{4}$  acres of their land in Amwell and W. Bethlehem twps to their son Michael for \$400; and of  $90\frac{3}{4}$  acres to their son Jacob for \$400. Both deeds were signed "Israel Bigler and Catharine <sup>her</sup> <sub>mark</sub> Bigler".
1810. Purchase by Israel Bigler, on May 12, of 50 acres in W. Bethlehem twp for \$450.

\* Daughter of Henry Eller and Elizabeth Bigler (d. of Mark Bigler I) who lived along Beaver Dam branch of Little Pipe Creek, Frederick, Md. Source: James W. Hook, George Michael Eller, 80 Temple St., New Haven, Conn., 1957

1819. Purchase on June 25 by Israel Bigler of a parcel on Ten Mile Creek in W. Bethlehem twp, adjacent to Abel McFarland's lands, of "47 acres and 26 perches" for \$941.50.
1819. Sale on June 25 by Israel and Catharine Bigler to David Begler for \$1900 of 104 acres in W. Bethlehem twp from tracts that Israel Bigler had bought July 14, 1804, Feb. 11, 1806, Nov. 19, 1806, and April 5, 1808. The 104 acres were described as being adjacent to the lands of Abel McFarland and also to the lands of Michael and Jacob Bigler. The deed was signed by "Israel Bigler and Catherine <sup>her</sup> Bigler".  
x  
mark

Israel Bigler's lands were located at the southern tip of West Bethlehem two on the east side of Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek, near Franklin Cemetery. This is picturesque mountain country, with clear water streams that once must have teemed with trout - a land of hilly uplands suitable only for pasture and wild life, and narrow river valleys where good crops flourish in the rich black soil.

Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington Co., 1876, printed by Otto Krebs, Pittsburg, in the public library of Washington, Penn., shows the Bigler farms as they existed in 1876; namely:

- 76 acres, owned by Henry Bigler (photo of his farm Plate VIII where Perry Bigler lived as a boy. The ridge on the right of the photo leads to the David Bigler farm on Highland Ridge road.)
- 66 acres, owned by Benjamin Bigler, on the east side of Highland Ridge road (photo of log house Plate VIII). This log house is where Benjamin and his son Isaac Bigler lived. Israel and Catherine Bigler, the grandparents of Benjamin Bigler, probably lived on this farm in their old age.
- 117 acres, owned by David Bigler, on the west side of Highland Ridge road;
- 18 acres, owned by Jacob Bigler. This and the other farms listed above were in West Bethlehem twp;
- 104 acres, owned by Israel Bigler, (1) on the west side of Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek in Amwell twp.

Henry, Benjamin and David were sons of Michael Bigler, the son of Israel and Catherine Bigler. Jacob and Israel were sons of either Jacob or Samuel Bigler, both of whom were also sons of Israel and Catherine Bigler.

(1) This Israel Bigler was listed in the Census of 1850 in Amwell twp, as follows:

Israel Bigler, age 39. Farmer b. Penn.  
Elizabeth Bigler, age 37. b. Penn.  
Children: George, Jacob, Eunice, Nancy, Hannah, Agness and Mary - all born in Penn.

Children of Israel and Catherine Bigler

Israel and Catherine Bigler had seven children, according to the records of the settlement of their estate that I examined in the Court House of Washington, Penn., in Nov. 1958. They were as follows:

1. Mary Magdalene. b. 1766 d. Oct. 15, 1829, age 63 years. Buried on a farm, exact locality unknown, in Washington County. m. George Smith. Washington C.H. records indicate they had at least four children: Israel; Catherine wife of Caleb Ball; David m. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_; Mary m. Samuel DeCamp.
2. Samuel. b. 1776 d. Mar. 5, 1849, age 73 years. m. Nancy Grable (1) who d. Aug. 18, 1849, age 68 years. Both buried in Zollarsville Cemetery, Washington Co., where four other Biglers (2) by birth or marriage are buried.
3. Jacob. b. 1778 d. June 21, 1849, age 71 yrs. 4 mos. and 8 days. m. Nancy Penn who d. Jan. 15, 1835 age 46 yrs. Both were buried in Franklin Cemetery.
4. Michael. b. Jan. 16, 1782, - in Maryland according to the Census of 1850. d. Mar. 3, 1855, age 73 yrs 1 mo. 18 days. m. Catherine Booher (or Booher) who d. April 5, 1844, age 58 yrs., 11 mos., 15 days. Both were buried in Franklin Cemetery. They had 12 children: David, Henry M., Benjamin, Ann, Amanda, Eleanor, Rebecca, Sarah, Mary, Susan, Simon and Catherine.
5. David. b. 1787 d. Aug. 25, 1844, age 57 yrs., 3 mos and 22 days. m. Nancy Graybill\* who d. Dec. 14, 1858, age 65 yrs., 3 mos. and 22 days. They migrated from Washington Co., Penn. in the fall of 1830 to settle near Oakland Church in Darke Co., Ohio.
6. Catherine. Married John Shidler and lived in Holmes Co., Ohio.
7. Susannah. No information, except reference to her as daughter of Israel Bigler in documents relating to settlement of his estate.

Information on Israel and Catherine Bigler's children (except David, Catherine and Susannah) in this chapter came from unpublished Notes, compiled about 1937, by William S. Bigler (son of Henry M., son of Michael, son of Israel) with the assistance of his close friend Clark M. Garber. The

(1) William S. Bigler Notes. In view of the controversy over maiden name of David Bigler's wife--whether Grable or Rarick--one wonders whether William S. Bigler--not knowing of the existence of David Bigler--may have assumed incorrectly that Nancy Grable was the wife of Samuel rather than David; or whether there might have been two Nancy Grables. It appears odd that the name immediately following Samuel Bigler's name in the Church Book of Names of Ten Mile Church of the Brethren in 1842 is Susannah Bigler--for the custom was in the Church Book of Names to write the wife's name immediately after the husband's name.

(2) Michael H. Bigler b. 9/15/1868 and d. 1/20/1909; Alice Horn Bigler b. 4/7/1879 and d. 1/19/1909; Frances D. Bigler b. 1908 and d. 1928; Weaver Bigler b. 2/11/1910 and d. 2/28/1910.

\* Will of Joseph Grable, June 17, 1843, notes "my beloved wife Barbary Grable" and "my eldest daughter Nancy Bigler", Washington Co. Pa. Wills Vol 6, 248

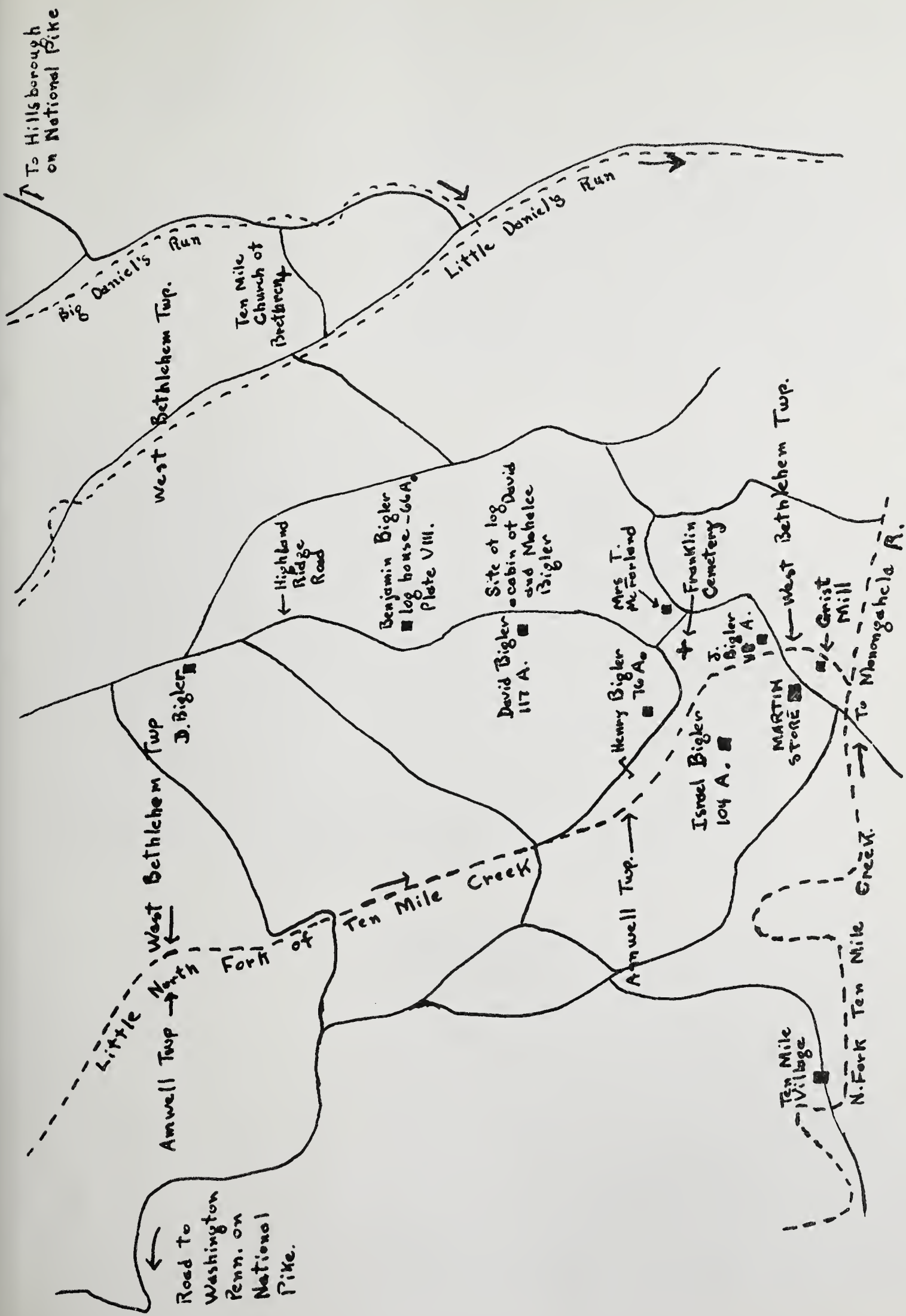
Notes were loaned to me in November, 1958 by Perry Bigler, son of William S. Bigler, of RD 1, Marianna, Penn. The Bigler Notes mention only four children of Israel and Catherine Bigler - Samuel, Jacob, Michael and Mary Magdalene - as he was apparently unaware of the other three, namely David and Catherine who had migrated to Ohio and Susannah of whom virtually nothing is known. Perry Bigler told me that he, too, was unaware that some of the Israel Bigler's children had migrated to Ohio. Thus the curious coincidence that within a century and a quarter the generation of Biglers living in Washington County had lost the memory of their early kinsmen who had gone to Ohio and the generation of Ohio Biglers had lost the memory of their ancestors from Washington Co., Penn. The Ohio Biglers knew only that their ancestor David Bigler had come to Darke Co., Ohio from somewhere in Pennsylvania or Maryland but the names of his parents were forgotten.

The connection between the Ohio and Pennsylvania Biglers was rediscovered when I found a cryptic reference in one of Nicodemus Bigler's (son of David) letters that an "old Congrasman Nicodemus Macfarlan" had carried him in his arms when he was a baby in Pennsylvania. Following this clue, I found that the Census of 1820 listed in West Bethlehem twp, Washington Co., Penn. an Abel McFarland living near the Israel, Michael and David Bigler families. Meanwhile, Edythe Neff, of Syracuse, Indiana, recalled notes she had made from a notebook long since lost, belonging to her grandfather Andrew Bigler (son of David), stating that he had come from Washington County, Penn. I learned from Boyd Crumrine's History of Washington County, Philadelphia, 1882, that Israel and Catherine Bigler had been members of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren, of W. Bethlehem twp., Washington County, during the pastorate of Rev. Helft before 1838 (and after 1832). But I had no way of knowing whether this Israel Bigler was the ancestor of the Ohio and Indiana Biglers. With these leads, I visited Washington County, Penn. in Nov. 1958, found Mr. Perry Bigler who lives near the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren and learned from him the history of the Biglers in that county, and through the Washington Court House records of their direct connection with our ancestor David Bigler of Darke Co., Ohio.

#### Membership in Ten Mile Church of the Brethren

Israel and Catherine Bigler were members of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren in West Bethlehem twp. (Plate VIII). This congregation, which some say was established before the Revolutionary War (others say about 1800 when its membership numbered 75), did not have a regular church building until 1832 when the present one room brick structure was built on the mountain ridge overlooking the beautiful hills and valleys of West Bethlehem township. (1) The

(1) Rev. W. J. Hamilton, Two Centuries of the Church of the Brethren in Western Pennsylvania, 1771-1950, Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois, 1953. Rev. Hamilton, now serving as a pastor at Cumberland, Md., 105 N. Cedar Street, wrote me on Dec. 16, 1958 that he had studied both the Crumrine history and an old book in the Meadville, Pa. library and had come to the conclusion that the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren was "settled" prior to 1759 and that it was regarded then as being in the Colony of Virginia until 1767.



# THE BIGLER FARMS

From Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Penn., 1876



Ten Mile Church of Brethren,  
Washington Co., Penn., 1958



Henry Bigler farm, viewed  
from Franklin Cemetery,  
Washington Co., Penn., 1958



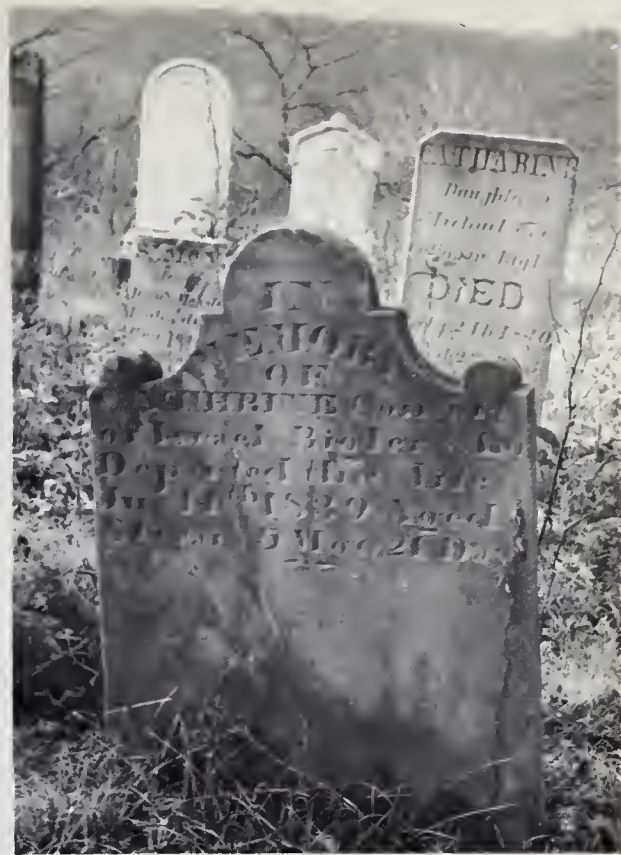
Benjamin Bigler log house  
near Franklin Cemetery, 1958







"In Memory of Israel Bigler who departed this life Dec. 15, 1838 Aged 91 Years." Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn. Photos 1958.



"In Memory of Cathrine, Consort of Israel Bigler who departed this life July 14th 1839 Aged 81 Years 5 Mo 21 Days." Franklin Cemetery.



David Bigler Died Aug. 25, 1844 Aged 57 Y 3 M. 22 D. (David Bigler farm near Oakland Church)



Nancy Bigler Died Dec 14, 1858 Aged 65 Y 3 M 22 D. (David Bigler farm near Oakland Church)



building today is said to be virtually the same as when originally constructed, except that the brick fireplace in the rear of the building, (used in connection with the Brethrens' love feast), was torn down a year ago. The floor is of very wide boards, as was the custom in the old days. When I attended services there on Nov. 16, 1958, the congregation had perhaps 30 members from the rural area of the township. Members of the congregation had brought bags of potatoes and other farm produce, which were placed near the pulpit, for donation to the Brethrens' old folks home. When I visited this church, I felt something of the serenity that always seems to be associated with Brethren rural places of worship.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles Ross (R.D. 1, Marianna, Penn.), daughter of Rev. Russell T. Idleman, who was pastor of this church from 1909 to 1938, I was able to examine the original Church Book of Names of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. The first page of this ledger is a longhand list of names in pencil under the caption "organized by Elder Helft" (which Crumrine says was before 1838 but after 1832) which includes the name "Israel Bigler" and immediately following it the name "Catharine Bigler". (1) The next page consists of names written in ink under the heading "members received prior to the year 1838" but there are no Biglers

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(1) First page, in pencil longhand - "Organized by Elder HELFT"

Jacob GARBBER minister  
Daniel Spohn  
Sally Spohn  
Israel Bigler  
Catharine Bigler  
Andrew Wise  
Samuel Thomas  
Henry Tanner Minister  
Joseph Grable Sr.  
Barbary Grable  
Jacob F. Spohn  
John Spohn  
Anna Spohn

John Miller Sr.  
John Miller Jr.  
Abraham Miller  
John Miller  
Nancy Miller  
John Lane  
Hannah Leasor  
Robert Guttery  
Peter Swihart  
Joshua Swihart  
Rebecca Swihart  
Ezekiel Swihart  
Elisabeth Swihart

in this list. (1) The only other Biglers listed in the early years (before 1857) are "Samuel Bigler" followed immediately thereafter by "Susannah Bigler", in 1842. There are many Grables, Grabills, and Garbers listed in the early years but no Raricks. According to the Garber family historian, many early members of the congregation, including the Biglers, Garbers, Grables, Crumrines, Koutzs, Ellers and Swiharts, had come from Frederick Co., Md. Rev. Jacob Garber, listed in the Church Book of Names as a pastor at Ten Mile Church of the Brethren, was the brother of Catharine Garber Bigler and Barbara Garber Grable of that congregation.

There are no Biglers in this congregation at present, nor in the nearby Highland Church of the Brethren (a split-off from the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren). Nor are there any Bigler markers in the cemeteries of either church. Perry Bigler, who lives between the two churches, told me he never knew any Biglers in Washington County had been members of the Brethren Church. His own family had been Baptist, attending North Ten Mile Baptist Church in Amwell twp., in the graveyard of which his grandparents Henry and Mary Fulton Bigler were buried. Twenty-one Biglers by birth or marriage were buried in that Baptist cemetery. Perry Bigler, now a member of the Christian denomination, said that most of the Biglers in Washington Co. were Baptists.

Many Biglers are still living in Washington County, Penn. Some are descendants of Israel's son, Michael; and others may be descendants of Israel's sons, Jacob and Samuel, both of whom lived and died in West Bethlehem twp. Among Michael's descendants are Perry Bigler and his sister Edith, R.D. 1, Marianna, Penn. Perry Bigler (photo Plate X), a retired dairy farmer and enthusiastic fox hunter, lives on his 127 acre farm near the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. As a boy, he lived for some time on his Grandfather Henry Bigler's farm (photo Plate VIII). Another descendant of Michael Bigler was Henry Bigler who died a few years ago, a former schoolteacher prominent in local Baptist activities, whose biography appears in Forrest's History of Washington County, 1926, as head of the Hazel-Atlas glass plant in the city of Washington, Penn. Many of his children are still living there.

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(1) Second page, in ink longhand - "Members received prior to the year 1838"

John Spohn, Sen. Elder	Mary Grabill
Mary Spohn	Daniel Grabill
Margaret Weaver	Abigail Grabill
Barbary Grabill	John Anthony
Barbary Grabill Pigeon Creek	Elisabeth Anthony
Jonathan Garber	Catharine Knight
Elisabeth Garber	Nancy Booher
Jacob Shidler	Matthias Tombaugh
Elisabeth Shidler	Rachel Tombaugh
Magdalena Eller	John Leatherman
Susanna Moore	Eleanor Totten
Peter Shidler	--Allens
David Wise Sen	Rebecca Hartzook
Elisabeth Staley	Elisabeth Arnold
George Wise Sen	Daniel Gayman
Margaret Wise	Mary Swihart
Elisabeth Zimmerman	Elisabeth Swihart
Samuel Grabill	Susannah D. Camp

Burial in Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn.

Israel and Catherine Bigler are buried in a little cemetery, overlooking the Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek, in West Bethlehem twp. This is Franklin Cemetery, surrounded by a stone wall and overgrown with broom grass, which looks forth over the Bigler farms. Here 23 Biglers by birth or blood have found their last resting place. All of their markers were still standing when I visited this cemetery with Perry Bigler on November 16, 1958, except that of Michael which had fallen down but bore a still legible inscription.

Israel Bigler's stone marker bears this inscription: "In Memory of Israel Bigler who departed this life Dec. 15, 1838 Aged 91 Years". Beside his marker is that of his wife: "In Memory of Cathrine, Consort of Israel Bigler who departed this life July 14th 1839 Aged 81 Years 5 Mo 21 Days" (see Plate IX). These were the graves of my great, great, great grandparents who were young when the American Revolution began. Here rested Israel Bigler who had made a boundary line with his neighbors in Frederick Co. Maryland that was to last "forever" - and Catherine who had agreed to the sale of their land in Frederick "voluntarily without being induced thereto by fear or threat of ill Usage from her said Husband or for fear of his displeasure". Here they rested together, as they must have prayed together in the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren for the welfare of their son, David, and his family in the wilderness of western Ohio.

Israel and Catharine Bigler left no will. Their store of worldly goods was not large--a small hill farm of 47 acres, 2 chairs valued at \$1.50, one pair of spectacles valued at 25 cents, one lamp valued at 12½ cents, miscellaneous furniture, and "1 Family Bible & 1 Book" valued at 75 cents. Except for their Bible, neither Israel nor his brother Mark II seem to have cared much for books. David Bigler, then living in Darke Co., Ohio, empowered his son Daniel to act for him in respect of David's share of the "estate of my father, the said Israel decd" and also for David's right acquired from "my brother Samuel Bigler, of in to and over both the real and personal estate of my said deceased father Israel Bigler, the said Samuel Bigler, with the assent of my said father, heretofore, to wit on the 15th September 1818, having for a valuable consideration sold to me all his share of the real and personal estate of which my said father might die possessed and seized" (power of attorney signed by David Bigler before Clerk of Common Pleas Court of Darke Co., Ohio, Mar. 12, 1840 and filed at the Washington Co. Court House).

The estate was settled by an Administrator named David Evans, appointed Aug. 17, 1839. His Account, filed at Washington County Court House, records the assets of Israel and Catherine Bigler's estate at \$1315.23 as follows:

"A True and perfect Inventory and appraisement of goods and Chattels rights & Credits which were of Israel Bigler late of West Bethlehem

Township, Washington County Deceased, September 2nd 1839".		\$	<u>90.39</u>
1 Tin (?) plate Stove & pipe	\$ 5.00		
1 Chest	1.00		
1 Family Bible & 1 Book	.75		
2 Chairs	1.50		
1 pair Spectacles & Case	.25		
1 Pocket Book	6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
1 Small Box	.25		
1 Lamp	12 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Promisory notes	68.63		
Claim on Saml Bigler	12.82 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Cash rec'd from sale of Real Estate		\$	<u>1208.54</u>

[Deed recorded sale on Dec. 2, 1840 of tract "containing 47 acres and 26 perches" in West Bethlehem twp to the highest bidder, Michael Bigler, for \$1208.50. This according to the Deed was all the land possessed by Israel Bigler at the time of his death.]

Amount of Interest received			16.30
Total assets of estate		\$	<u>1315.23</u>

Of which payments made by Administrator on debts & expenses \$ 443.94

"Balance Remaining in hand of Administrator subject to distribution according to law": \$ 871.29

Michael Bigler, Share in full 124.47

Jacob Bigler, Share in full 124.47

Susannah Beeler, Share in full [her receipt for payment dated July 3, 1843 signed "Susannah <sup>her</sup> Beeler" mark] 124.47

David and Samuel Bigler, Share in full [all for David Bigler] 248.94

Catherine Bigler Shidler, Share in full 124.47

[According to power of attorney, dated Mar. 26, 1841 "I John Shidler of the County of Holmes and State of Ohio and Katharine my wife late Katharine Bigler one of the daughters and heirs of the estate of Israel Bigler of Washington County ... Katharine Bigler is entitled to one seventh part of all property belonging to the said estate of Israel Bigler".

Four children, apparently of Israel's daughter Mary Magdalene Smith (she died Oct. 15, 1829) who married George Smith 124.47

They were: Israel Smith, Catherine [Smith] Ball, David Smith and Mary [Smith] DeCamp, each of whom received \$31.11 3/4

V. DAVID AND NANCY GRAYBILL BIGLER

David Bigler was born in 1787, probably in Frederick County, Md., and moved from there with his parents to Washington Co. Penn., in 1804. The first written evidence of his presence in Washington Co. is a land deed of June 25, 1819 noting that "Israel Bigler and Catharine his Wife of the township of West Bethlehem [sold to] David Begler of the same place ... in consideration of the sum of \$1900 ... a piece of land lying and being on the waters of ten mile creek [in W. Bethlehem twp] ... Containing one hundred and four acres with the allowance of six pr. cent for roads". The deed was signed "Israel Bigler and Catharine <sup>her</sup> Bigler".  
(Washington Co. Deeds 2 C 411). <sub>mark</sub>

David's wife Nancy was born in 1793 but we do not have a record of the date of her marriage, as Washington Co. marriage records are not available before 1885. Some of her descendants in Ohio assumed that her maiden name was Rarick. A biographical reference to her daughter Rachel, written in her daughter's lifetime (see below under Rachel Bigler), says that Rachel Bigler's parents were David and Nancy Graybill Bigler.

Charles H. Bigler, of Darke Co., Ohio, a grandson of David and Nancy Bigler, wrote me on Jan. 17, 1959: "David Bigler's wife was Graebill and was born in Pa likely near Washington Pa. Wish I knew more about the family. I only know what my mother told me. I am not so sure of the spelling, whether it was spelled with a C. or likely G. They attended the old lower Harris Creek church until the Oakland church was founded. I am quite sure Moses Bigler was one of the founders of Oakland Church".

Mary Hapner of 1429 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona (daughter of Isabel Maurer Halladay, daughter of Julia Ann Bigler Maurer, daughter of David and Nancy Bigler) wrote Julia Ann Cary, Jan. 26, 1959, that according to her memory "I am positive your great grandmother Bigler's name was Graybill. I have often heard mother speak about the fact that her grandmother was a Graybill. I know that she often wondered about a man that was quite prominent in the Brethren Church, by that name, whether he might be a relative". Mrs. Hapner wrote me on July 3, 1960 that she had found a notation in her mother's family history which stated "Nancy Grabill Bigler died Dec. 14th age 65 yrs 3 mon. and 22 days".

It seems certain, therefore, that David Bigler's wife was Nancy Graybill and in all probability a member of the Grable or Graybill family mentioned in the Church Book of Names of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. Graybill (Krehbiel) is a common family name in the Bernese country of Switzerland.

Most, and probably all, of David and Nancy's children were born in Washington Co., Penn. These included: Andrew, the eldest born Feb. 25, 1816, Rachel, Moses, Daniel, Amos, Barbara, Julia Ann, Phoebe, Nancy, Lydia, Nicodemus born May 10, 1829, Delila born Aug. 24, 1830, Israel, Mary

and Samuel who died in infancy and whose birthdates are unknown, and possibly an Elizabeth (birthdate unknown; married in 1850). Twelve persons were reported in David Bigler's family in West Bethlehem twp, Washington Co., in the U. S. Census of 1830. (1)

The little we know of David Bigler's life in Washington Co. comes from fragments of writings of his sons, Andrew and Nicodemus. That he adhered to the Brethren principles of peace and dreaded the barbarity of war may be inferred from what Nicodemus wrote April 14, 1884: "I heard my Father say who was drafted in the war of 1812 and paid his fine as draft money \$92<sup>99</sup>/<sub>100</sub> that the snow in the winter before the war was after night sometimes as red as blood", from the red war cloud that appeared before every war (Nicodemus letter Feb. 14, 1892). Again, Nicodemus wrote on April 29, 1884: "I burned my Father's receipt releasing him from a draft in 1812 he paid \$92<sup>99</sup>/<sub>100</sub> to pay his fine I saved this receipt long after he was dead. He was a good man and is Buried on our old farm [near Oakland Church] clost to where you live when we lived in Pennsylvania". Another letter, dated Dec. 1, 1895, stated "My father the people called him a good man".

### Long Journey to Ohio

In the letter of April 29, 1884, Nicodemus described what must have been an exciting moment in the lives of David and Nancy Bigler when, with their large family of children ranging from Andrew, age 14, to Delila, only a few weeks old, they left their old home in West Bethlehem twp where they had lived for many years--knowing they would probably never see their aged parents Israel and Catherine Bigler again--to face the uncertainties of pioneer existence in western Ohio. Nicodemus wrote:

"Our close neighbor Nicodemus Macfarlan a rich man and an old Congrasman he went down to Washington city yearly to help to enact laws... I was named after Nicodemus Macfarlan when we moved to the far west to where our farm is I was then a Baby old Honorable Mr. Mcfarland took me in his arms and followed the wagons and gave me a gift for his namesake". (2)

One can well imagine the pangs of farewell as the wagons began their long trek from the Bigler hill farm in Washington County, westward over the newly opened National Pike - the stretch from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Columbus, Ohio, was built between 1825 and 1833 - and thence by wilderness trail to Adams township, Darke County, Ohio. The hills were long and steep, the roads rough and the wagons jolty. Daniel, a husky lad of 11, carried his baby

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(1) U. S. Census of 1850 for Adams twp., Darke Co. reported Nancy (wife of David), Moses, Amos, Nicodemus and Delila, all as having been born in Penn.

(2) This was state congressman Abel McFarland--not U.S. Congressman as there was none by that name from Washington Co.--whose farm adjoined Israel Bigler's farm. He was buried in Franklin Cemetery where his stone marker may be seen today near those of Israel and Catherine Bigler.



sister Delila most of the way to Ohio. (1) At night the baby, only a few weeks old, would be put to sleep in a bureau drawer.

The Biglers probably travelled along with wagons of other pioneer folk who like themselves were moving westward in a mighty stream over the new National Pike to seek new homes in the rich lands of western Ohio and Indiana. One wonders what they thought - what were their hopes and fears - as the wagons creaked slowly westward, sometimes through dense forest where wild animals still lurked, sometimes by rude settlements that had sprung up at the river ferries. It was early fall and the trees would have been aflame with color. What tales did they tell and what friends did they make as they sat around the campfire on frosty nights under the bright stars, after the wagons had bivouacked at the end of each day's long hard journey?

Most of these pioneers were humble folk who never thought of themselves as making history. Few wrote any account of their experiences. In truth, it hardly seems to have occurred to them that future generations might be interested in what they did. They were intent in doing whatever they were doing, without bothering to write about it. And these were the people who laid the foundation for the great states of the mid-west in the century ahead.

All we know of the Bigler journey are the few shreds of information mentioned above, and a terse note from Andrew Bigler's notebook long since destroyed by fire but from which his granddaughter had copied this notation: "I left Washington Co. Penn in 1830 Came to Dark Co Ohio, Oct. 11-1830 Left Ohio in 1846 and got to Indiana Aug 16-1846. Walked beside the wagon". (2)

#### Settlers in Darke County, Ohio

When David Bigler and family first arrived in Darke County, the county was sparsely settled. Darke County had a population of only 6203 persons (as compared with 42,000 in 1950) and the entire State of Ohio contained only 930,000 people in 1830. Soon after arrival there, David Bigler bought a farm of 197.35 acres in Adams township, about one-fourth mile east of the present Oakland Church, along Harris Creek for \$1,000 (see Map of 1875 farm marked Wm Evans). Here rich prairie land could be had for \$5 an acre when the mountain land of Washington County, Pennsylvania was selling for \$20 an acre. This was the lure that drew David Bigler, and countless pioneer farmers like him, to the virgin forests of the mid-west.

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(1) Information sent me March 9, 1959 by Edythe Neff, from Edith Miller who obtained it from her sister, Ida Miller Winger from old records telling of the Ohio journey and the date of Delila's birth. Edith and Ida were the granddaughters of Phoebe Bigler, the daughter of David and Nancy Bigler.

(2) Letter from Edythe Neff to Norman Burns October 14, 1958.

David Bigler's deed of purchase from George Kimmel, dated April 26, 1831, was for the East side of fractional section No. 12 of twp. 10, that is Adams township. (1) Section 12, containing 393.89 acres in all, had been surveyed in 1800. The original survey notes of 1800 described it as "a township of good second rate land ... the Land is mostly dry and rich on Harris Creek on the northeastern part of the township. The Land is also of good quality the residue of the township is generally rolling white oak land or wet flats covered with Elm & Blk Oak--The 'Milk Sickness' or 'Sick Stomach' is said to prevail in the East side of the Township". (2) As the surveyor walked, in 1800, from the southeast corner of Section 12, proceeding northward, he noted: "Entered a willow swamp, across a branch runs S to E Entered woods, swamp continuing along the run". This swamp, long since drained, is known as "bottom land" where the best corn is raised on the David Bigler place today.

David Bigler's first home on his new farm is said to have been a log house, at the site of the present house, above a spring, on the ridge running along the south side of Harris Creek. The early settlers usually built on high ground to avoid swamp fevers. Foundations and beams of the original part of the present house (the higher part where there are no windows, see photo Plate II) are from the log house, according to my Uncle Jake Bigler who visited the place with my father and me in May, 1943. Epaminondas (Pam) Bigler says that when a small boy he "raided Grandpap Bigler's apple orchard" (David had been dead over 30 years by then) and remembers the main part of the house then as it is today; and he believes this part may have been built by his Grandpap Bigler.

Pam remembers many legends of his Grandpap Bigler's family recounted by his mother and the early settlers. When David was clearing the land, "a few Indians were still running about the country", said Pam. One or two Indians came to David's place, saying they were hungry and asking for one of David's pigs running loose in the woods. When David refused, the Indians disappeared in the thick woods north of Harris Creek. That night they heard the dogs barking violently near the brick bake oven, where the dogs were accustomed to retreat when worsted by wolves. But when morning came, they found a pig's head cut off and lying near the bake oven, evidence that the Indians had returned to take a pig.

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(1) Darke Co. Deeds D1-321. The entire Section 12 was purchased originally by David Bowman and George Kimmel through the Land Office in Cincinnati, with a deed of May 20, 1825 carrying signature of President John Quincy Adams. Subsequent transfer between Bowman and Kimmel resulted in a split of the section, with George Kimmel receiving the East side of Section 12, of 197.35 acres, in 1829 which he sold to David Bigler April 26, 1831. After David Bigler's death, Nancy sold the 197.35 acres to Michael Bashore on February 12, 1845, for \$2600, signing the deed Nancy <sup>her</sup><sub>x</sub> Bigler (Darke Co. Deeds Y1-314). Thereafter, the <sub>mark</sub>

farm passed through many hands, including: William Evans in 1869; Dr. C. L. Crane in 1875; it was cut to 95 acres and sold to John W. Rhoades in 1905 who transferred it to Minna Bosserman in 1908; to Oscar Martin, a great grandson of David Bigler in 1917; and to his widow Jennie Martin who owns it today as a 95 acre farm.

(2) Survey by Daniel C. Cooper, Nov. 1800, Notes of Survey, by Deputy Surveyor, John Wharry, in National Archives, Washington.

Once when Nancy had been sickly for a long time, she went to an herb doctor who said she was bewitched. The person who bewitched you, he counseled, is the first person who brings back something they borrowed from you; don't receive it. Shortly thereafter, an "old pioneer mother", Mrs. Sword, who lived nearby in a log house came to the Bigler house to return a skein of borrowed yarn. Nancy, crying "Take your flax and never set foot in this house again. Get out, your witchery and all", threw the yarn in her face. Mrs. Sword left weeping, denying that she was a witch; and thereafter Nancy regained her health. One room in the Bigler house is haunted to this very day, according to my Uncle Jacob Bigler, but he did not know the origin of the haunt. When visiting thrashers, unaware of the haunt, were given this room to sleep in one night, all left by morning to sleep in the barn. "They wouldn't sleep in that room", said Uncle Jake, "Something happened there. That room is haunted".

Pam's mother knew an old man at Bradford who was a fiddler and a drunkard. When he died after midnight, people said they saw the black shadow of the Devil, cast against the wall by the lamplight, grabbing for his soul as it left the body of the dying fiddler.

Nancy Bigler, according to Pam who had it from an old settler David Hetzler, used to smoke a pipe. She and a friend "Old Soph Miller", who lived north of Harris Creek on what was the Jacob Miller farm, would "walk down the road talking and puffing away on their clay pipes like Indians", said Pam.

David Bigler died Aug. 25, 1844, aged 57 years 3 months and 22 days. (1) Pam's mother attended the funeral services at a Brethren church--probably Harris Creek as Oakland Church was not built until 1866. As Pam remembers it from his mother, David was "an enormous big man" whose walnut coffin was so large that it had to be carried sideways through the church gate or door.

After David's death, Nancy sold the home farm, in 1845, but seems to have purchased another farm nearby where she lived until her death Dec. 14, 1858, aged 65 years 3 months and 22 days. Her last will, witnessed by her son Amos and son-in-law Abraham R. Deeter, filed before the Probate Judge at the Greenville Court House, Dec. 24, 1858, reads as follows:

"In the name of the benevolent Father of all I Nancy Bigler of the County of Darke and State of Ohio do make and publish this my last will and Testament (to wit)

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(1) There is no record of any will by David Bigler. When he died, his widow was declared executor by the Darke Co. Probate Court, under \$600 bond. Probate Court records of Darke Co., Sept. 9, 1844 page 130. No. of estate case 159 Docket p. 133.

- 1st It is my Will that my Funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid.
- 2nd It is my Will that the place on which I now live containing eighty acres of land more or less lying and being in the County of Darke and State of Ohio that after my death said land be sold and the proceeds be equally divided among my children Eleven in number--
- 3rd It is my Will that Sarah Martin my daughter Barbara's child Receive one half as much as one of the other children as aforesaid, said Sarah Martin to receive said sum when she arrives at the age of Eighteen years. The Names of my children are as follows (to wit)
- Andrew Bigler
  - Moses Bigler
  - Daniel Bigler
  - Amos Bigler
  - Nicodemus Bigler
  - Rachel Miller
  - Julian Maurer
  - Nancy Deeter
  - Phoebe Miller
  - Lydia Fahnestock, and
  - Delilah Bigler
- are each to have an Equal share when the place is sold and said Susan Martin is to Receive one half as much as each one of the others as aforesaid when she arrives at Eighteen years as aforesaid.
- 4th After my death said place shall be sold to the best advantage.
- 5th My Bedding & clothing shall be divided among my Daughters as above mentioned and the balance of my property shall be sold at public sale and proceeds thereof shall be equally divided among my children.

David Wenrick and ) Executors  
Joseph Wolf her )  
Signed Nancy x Bigler  
mark

David and Nancy Bigler were buried in an apple orchard of their farm a short distance west of the southwest corner of the present house. Pam, who visited the cemetery when a small boy, remembers walnut markers in a north-south row, one for David, one for Nancy, and one or two others. Charles H. Bigler wrote me Jan. 3, 1959: "I very well remember when as a bare footed boy I liked to wander there. When I used to visit that burial place, there was a neat board fence enclosing it. There were wild flowers such as the white and purple anemones in early spring; in the autumn there were golden colored leaves of the sassafras and other young trees." When the walnut markers became weatherbeaten with age, my grandfather Cyrus Bigler replaced them with a single stone marker at the site of the original graves, the legend from the walnut marker over David's grave being transferred to one side, and that from

the walnut marker over Nancy's grave being transferred to the other side, of the stone marker. But in the course of time, an inconsiderate farmer, John W. Rhoades, who owned the place 1905-8, wishing to plow over the little cemetery for farming purposes, removed the stone marker from the original site and placed it in a nearby fence row where it stands today (photo of Jan. 1959 in Plate IX). Some years ago, Pam Bigler, trying to locate the wooden coffins of his grandparents that he might remove them to a more fitting place, was unable to find their exact location. And that is the story of the lost Bigler graveyard. David and Nancy sleep there, in the fields their hearts must have loved, in a place known only to God.

### Children of David and Nancy Bigler

David and Nancy Bigler had many children who, in turn, reared large families in Ohio and Indiana. It was as though they were guided by the Lord's injunction to Noah: "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth". (Genesis 9:9)

Moses, Julia Ann, Nancy, Lydia, and Barbara remained in Darke Co. or vicinity. Andrew was the first to move to Elkhart Co., Indiana in 1846; followed sometime after 1850 by Amos, Rachel and Delila; by Nicodemus in 1871; and by Daniel (date not known). Phoebe lived near North Manchester, Indiana, and in Ohio. ~~Three~~ <sup>Two</sup> children Moses, Rachel and Phoebe married respectively Mary Miller, Daniel C. Miller and Michael Miller, the children of Jacob Miller who lived along Harris Creek about half way between the Oakland and Harris Creek Brethren Churches (see Map of 1875, farm later owned by J. Katherman). Amos and Julia Ann married respectively Catharine and Henry Maurer, the children of Daniel and Sarah Anders Maurer of Darke Co. The children lived most or all of their lives on farms--usually on prosperous farms, for the Biglers were builders by nature. Few were soldiers or politicians. Mostly they were members of the Brethren Church, Andrew himself being a Brethren minister. Many of the grandchildren were farmers, remaining active in the Brethren church; and many of their descendants became teachers or entered business.

Andrew. He married Lydia Rarick in 1837, farmed for some time in Darke Co., and moved to Elkhart Co. in 1846. Nicodemus, with his capacity for vivid description and with magnificent disregard for the complexities of punctuation, described his own first visit to Goshen when Andrew first settled there:

"Goshen [about 1846] was a small town with ricketty frame buildings and little Groceries and dry goods Stores the Indians would come in to town on their little ponies to barter I walked west ten miles from Goshen to where Brother Andy had bought 160 acres he had a small field or two fenced in there were but a few commencements made between him and Goshen the wolves would howl around the house after night As I walked down last Saturday [1885] I thought of how different it looks now to what it was then nearly all the land cleared and fenced into fields with

\* Phoebe married Michael Miller, the son of Michael Miller who was the brother of Jacob Miller, the father of Mary Miller and David C. Miller

magnificent Brick houses the yards adorned with evergreens and wind pumps rolling their wheels with large orchards of good fruit trees and splendid painted Barns with glittering lightening rods extending aloof and many towns and magnificent cities with their hum and noise of many different machineries and the Electric light illuminating far and wide around after night". (letter May 19, 1885)

Andrew was a man of varied interests, some of which are recalled by his granddaughter Edythe Neff, in her recent letters to me:

"Andrew was Elder and Minister of the West Goshen Church. The Elder presides over the church as to the welfare of the church members, physically and spiritually, holds communions, baptisms, anoints the sick, looks after the poor. The church took care of their poor in their churches. The Elder shepherds the flock. Andrew was preacher and Elder. He was followed by Rev. Levi Hoke, his son-in-law" (Dec. 13, 1958). "He was also learned in the medicinal properties of roots, barks, berries, and knew how to combine them into healing liquids. From an old notebook I copied one of his receipts for curing dropsy or Brights disease. Here are the herbs to use: 1 oz parsley root and seed, 1 oz. squill, 1 oz juniper berries, 1 oz mustard seed, 1 oz salt peter, 1 gal sweet cider, keep hot two days. Take four times a day, half a cup each time. This combination of herbs is recorded by Goshen druggists" (Nov. 6, 1958). "There was another herb medicine [of Andrew's] for heart disease: 1 oz of Rhubarb, 1 oz of Eastern chamonile flowers, 1 oz of columbo root,  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz of cinnamon drops, 1 qt of best Holland gin. Take a tablespoon full three times a day" (Nov. 17, 1958). "Andrew Bigler also could water witch. Was called on many times to locate ground water, springs for the settlers who wanted to dig wells of fresh water for their homes on prairie or woods" (Nov. 6, 1958).

Another granddaughter, Bertha Hoke, writing to Edythe Neff, Oct. 14, 1958, recalled her grandparents in these terms: "You asked me about Grandmother Bigler's maiden name. It was Lydia Rarick. I don't remember her face too well but I can just see her going about the house and into her garden. There was a little armless black rocking chair side of the cuboard where she usually sat. Grandfather's big broad armed rocking chair was back of the stove and we kids Lon, Ora, Grace and I used to almost fight to get on his wide armed chair to have him tell us stories. Grandmother died very suddenly one day after baking some pies. They called it neuralgia of the heart."

Nicodemus evidently held his older brother in high esteem. When Nicodemus' daughter, Jane, was about to visit Goshen, he wrote her: "They nearly all know Andy Biglers in Goshen one mile west from Goshen a big road from Goshen runs past their house .... at Andy Biglers you are welcome to stay as long as you want" (Aug. 5, 1887). Nicodemus had no doubts in his mind about Andy's hospitality. He visited his brother often. Of one visit, he wrote (Aug. 17, 1879): "I walked to Goshen the next day and took dinner with Andy Biglers staid with them until the next day I had splendid feasting .... Andy was down on the river fishing He did not come home until towards Eavening He took his spear along he said that he had speared a large pike nearly one yard long He

tried to hold him Andy Jumped into the river to hold him fast But he got loose and swum under some drift the fish come out of the Lakes into Elkhart river. Andy is not well the doctors say He cannot live long." The doctors seem to have underestimated Andrew's vitality, for he lived nearly 13 years longer, no doubt an active fisherman to the end.

When Andrew's wife passed away, Nicodemus wrote: "I went to Andys some three weeks after she was buried the house was empty i took a chair he soon came in sat down and cried and would not talk then he spake a few words and i left .... they all said that Lydia was such a good woman" (letter Sept. 13, 1889).

Andrew died Jan. 18, 1892. As told by Nicodemus: "Levi Hoke anointed him about a half hour before he died he wanted to see his children and little grandchildren in his dieing hour to give them the last farewell i went to the house in the morning and then to the church funeral services preached here and then we took sleds and took him west to Levi Millers [married Andrew's sister Delila] it was awful cold we were shivering with cold at the grave [Yellow Creek Brethren Cemetery on Levi Miller's farm] and then went in to Levi Miller's where their rooms [were] nicely carped and warmed and two long tables with the most splendid good seasoned eatables and we all took a good meal men and women. David Miller [married Rachel Bigler, Andrew's sister] Henrys Brother came here early in a sleigh Levi Miller and Deliah [Andrew's sister] and Daniel Bigler. He now layed last night again beside Leida his wife where they are glad to see each other again" (Jan. 21, 1892).

Andrew and Lydia Bigler had eight children: Mary, Nancy, Joel, David, Amos, Aaron, Elizabeth and Isaac - most of whom lived on farms in the Elkhart area. Aaron who lived the longest of Andrew's children - the "last leaf" as Edythe Neff said - died in 1943 at the age of 88. The photo (Plate VII) taken Aug. 20, 1940 at the Bigler reunion at Goshen dam when he was 86 years old is that of a venerable patriarch. Isaac's daughter, Edythe Neff, a former schoolteacher, is the historian of the Bigler family in Indiana whose generous assistance made possible this account of the Biglers in Indiana (photo Plate VI and VII). She says that in the Goshen area everyone knows that "a Bigler's word is as good as his bond". Her husband, Lloyd Neff, owns Nefflands, Syracuse, Indiana, where registered Aberdeen Angus cattle are grown for breeding purposes, the calves going mostly for 4H Club projects in many countries. Amos' son, Ora, who died Dec. 1958, at the age of 75, was vice president of the Goshen Cushion and Body Co. and a city councilman of Goshen.

Rachel Bigler. She married <sup>Daniel</sup> Daniel C. Miller "who for over forty years, has been a prominent resident of this county [Elkhart]. During his long term of years here his good name has remained untarnished, and he has well and faithfully performed every duty, both public and private, that has fallen to his lot. He is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Montgomery county, near Dayton, June 8, 1817 and was a son of Jacob and Polly Michel Miller [actually Mary Michael Miller]. Our subject was reared on a farm and secured a fair education in the district schools. In 1838, he married Miss Rachel Bigler, a native of Washington County, Pennsylvania,

born May 1, 1817, the daughter of David and Nancy Graybill Bigler. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler came from Washington county, Penn. to Stark [Darke] county, Ohio, and died there when aged people .... Both [David and Rachel Miller] are members of the Dunkard Church and Mr. Miller votes with the Democratic party".(1) Photos of Rachel Bigler Miller and her husband, of her five sisters and of Nicodemus Bigler are shown on the accompanying Plate.

Daniel Bigler. Daniel was a large man over 6 feet tall (photo Plate VII) who, in his adventurous youth liked to drink whiskey and fight with the Irish laborers then building the railroad through Gettysburg, Ohio, according to Pam Bigler. Many a Saturday night of fighting ended with Doc Campbell of Gettysburg being called to patch broken heads. Daniel moved to Elkhart Co. where he farmed for many years, was married twice, and had 11 children. He lived for a time, 1897-98, in Kentucky but returned for Brethren church privileges at Goshen where he died in 1900. One of his daughters, Delila, a school teacher, married Sam Miller and lived in Stockton, Cal.; and her daughter Maude Ellen Miller became a schoolteacher in Detroit. A son, Andrew, was a railroader in Kansas City, Missouri, whose son, Earle S. Bigler, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Retired, was Manager of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport 1947-60. He now lives at 7102 Seward Park Ave., Seattle, Washington. Daniel's son, David, lived in Stockton, Cal. and another, Levi, in Centralia, Washington. The fifth generation of Biglers in America had reached the Pacific Ocean,

Amos Bigler. Amos married Catharine Maurer in 1843, farmed in Ohio near his parents' farm until sometime after 1850 and then moved to near Nappanee, Indiana, where he lived in a "rich neighborhood of splendid farms" (Nicodemus letter of Dec, 24, 1881) until his death sometime about 1900-02. The photo of Amos and Catharine Bigler (top of Plate VI) was taken about 1898 or 1900 by Edythe Neff's father, Isaac, when "Uncle Amos and Aunt Kathy were old and frail but able to be around". Edythe Neff identified the persons in the photo as follows:

Front row, left to right in photo:

- Pierre Bigler - s. of Isaac and grandson of Andrew.
- Viola - with kitten, d. of Leander Bigler.
- Amos Bigler - with white beard, s. of David and Nancy Bigler.
- Catharine Bigler - wife of Amos,
- Edythe Bigler Neff - with white blouse, d. of Isaac and granddaughter of Andrew Bigler.
- Harry Bigler - small boy beside his father Leander Bigler.
- Leander Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.

Back row, left to right in photo:

- William Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.
- Lydia Bigler Stuckman - d. of Daniel and granddaughter of Amos Bigler.

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(1) Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs Elkhart and St. Josephs Counties, Indiana, Goodspeed Brothers Publishers, Chicago, 1893, p. 596. Biodata on Rachel Bigler Miller, in my history, came largely from this source.



Charles Stuckman - Lydia's husband.

David Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.

Daniel Bigler - with beard, s. of Amos and Catharine Bigler.

Christine - w. of Daniel Bigler.

Elizabeth Bigler - sister of Isaac and d. of Andrew Bigler.

Anna Bigler - w. of Isaac Bigler, mother of Edythe and Pierre Bigler.

Charlotte - wife of Leander Bigler.

Julia Ann. Her granddaughter, Julia Ann, wife of Frank Cary who has large farms near Amlin, Ohio, furnished the following information: "She [Julia Ann] and her husband Henry Maurer were members of the Oakland Church, as was I, until 1898 when I came to Plain City to live and joined the Presbyterian Church. They lived east of Oakland on the Oakland-Harris Creek road [see map]. They and a number of their children are buried in the Harris Creek cemetery about a half mile south of the church towards Bradford. My own mother Rachel is buried in the old Harris Creek cemetery west of the church, back off the road on the north side. Grandmother was 73 when she died; had been almost totally deaf as long as I can remember. She was a very kind Christian woman. In the upstairs of the old house were her large spinning wheel; a small wheel used to wrap yarn into skeins; her hackle, used to straighten wool and flax and to remove foreign matter, getting it ready to spin. There were other smaller tools she told me she used when she made yarn for knitting for the family" (letter Dec. 9, 1958). Julia Ann Maurer had 16 children (See appendix IV for biodata furnished by Julia Ann Cary).

The photo of Julia Ann Cary (Plate X) was taken on Feb. 14, 1959 to celebrate her 78th birthday. The jar behind her, in the photo, was used by Nancy Bigler for keeping coffee beans. It was given by Nancy to Julia Ann when she married Henry Maurer in 1842, who gave it to their youngest daughter Isabelle who later gave it to Julia Ann Cary.

Phoebe. She was the second wife of Michael Miller, <sup>Cousin</sup> ~~brother~~ of Mary Miller Bigler. (1) They appear to have lived in northern Indiana for some time, as Nicodemus Bigler, then living at South West, Ind., wrote on June 28, 1885; "I was some 40 miles south two weeks ago i staid with Michael Millers i had not saw them for 28 years She did not know me any more they own 80 acres well built on the side of a lake from their porch their is a fine view over the lake to a town Laketon Mike and his Boy were on the lake on a boat fishing they made supper and rung the bell and they came home Mike is a preacher Michael then took me the next day in his buggy to the Railroad station ...." Edythe Neff wrote me Jan. 7, 1959 that Michael and Phoebe Miller lived later in Ohio where they had a good farm and where both died. They had 15 children, one of whom was Amos who lived at North

(1) I always understood this Michael Miller was the same Michael Miller who was the brother of Mary Miller Bigler. However some of Nicodemus Bigler's letters (June 14, 1875 and Aug. 5, 1887) state he was a brother of John C. Miller who, so far as I know, was not a brother of Mary Miller Bigler.

Manchester, Ind. Amos' daughter Edith furnished Edythe Neff much information on Phoebe Miller's family. Amos' daughter Ida married Otha Winger President of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., from 1911 to his death in 1941.

Nancy. Nancy, wife of Abraham Deeter, lived on the south side of Harris Creek in 1875 (see Map of 1875). Nicodemus wrote, Feb. 23, 1878, that he heard Abraham Deeter had "broke up". Pam Bigler told me, Jan. 3, 1959, that Abraham Deeter had lived across the road from Pam's present house and died there; that he was a tremendous talker and horse trader who traded himself out of all his property; and that he understood Oakland Church helped support Nancy after her husband died. As Pam remembers her, she had white hair, a big face with a red complexion, wore a clean white cap and white bleached dress, was a good cook, and of cheerful disposition. When his mother was discouraged, she would say: "Get old Nancy Deeter here to cheer us up". Biodata information on her children was furnished by Pam Bigler.

Nicodemus. Nicodemus, a thin tall man of over six feet, with blue eyes and a long black beard, was the dreamer of the Bigler family. Once when Nicodemus visited Cyrus Bigler's home, Cyrus took his then small son, Jake, aside and said (as remembered by my Uncle Jake Bigler): "You see that fellow. He is not like other people around here. He is not interested in cutting down trees and planting crops, as we are. He looks over the fields and enjoys them. There is nothing wrong with that. But a neighborhood like ours that has to cut down woods and raise crops doesn't know what to do with such a person".

Nicodemus was a man of many interests. Interesting glimpses into his life are given in his letter to his daughter Jane (see excerpts Appendix VI). Once he traveled with a theater troupe working as a stage hand; and he often spoke of plays as they came to town. He read books, wrote poetry, and taught school for ten years. One of his schools was south of Stillwater River, southwest of the present Stillwater beach, where he received \$25 per month for teaching. He wanted his children to become schoolteachers. He was a good carpenter, building the house where his family lived and where his son, Epaminondas, lives now. He was brought before the elders of the Oakland Church and "heckled" for not supporting his family properly. After his sixth child was born, he and his wife were legally separated--but without full divorce. His wife and family (see Plate V) remained on the farm and he went to the Elkhart area in 1871 where he spent the remainder of his lonely life, working chiefly as a shoe cobbler. He wrote many interesting letters to his daughter Jane, in beautiful longhand script, vividly describing local life in Elkhart. (See Appendix VI) He liked small children; and they were fascinated by him and his shoe shop. When Edythe and Pierre Bigler (Isaac's children) visited him, he wrote: "Little Edith and Enos Bigler were here Edith drew a picture of a hen she can beat me drawing. I told them to tend School and become Schoolteachers". Edith--that is Edythe Neff--wrote me about 65 years later, on Nov. 17, 1958: "If we were at Uncle Demus' home an hour or more he would offer us a slice of bread and how we loved it, 'fresh bakery bread'. If he wasn't busy he would have a slice himself, sit in his big armed chair and hum sometimes and rock ... The family in Indiana loved him and were doing all they

could, that he would accept, to make him happy or at least comfortable. He wanted to live very simply and quietly". Isaac Bigler's family cared for him in his final illness, pneumonia, and he passed away Jan. 5, 1900.

One of Nicodemus Bigler's sons, Charles H. (photo Plate V) studied at the Gettysburg Academy and taught school for 33 years in Darke Co., at Stelvideo 1887-89, at Buzzards Glory, at Versailles 1900-05 and elsewhere. My mother, who attended Buzzards Glory school when he taught there, remembers him as a very good teacher. He was well known in the county both as a school teacher and as a breeder of fine saddle horses at his Wayside Farm north of Gettysburg. He was keenly interested in my work on the Bigler family history, and supplied me with much useful information in 1958-59 on his parents and grandparents and on my grandfather Cyrus who was one of his close friends. I saw him for the last time in late April 1959 at the Greenville Public Library where he used to spend the afternoons reading local histories and current magazines. He came to what he called the "golden sunset" on July 2, 1959 at the age of 94. His three children are also teachers, namely Marguerite (Mrs. Mac Stoltz, RD 2, Greenville) who teaches in the Greenville public schools, Robert who is now teaching chemistry in the high school of Cumberland, Maryland, and Grace.

Pam Bigler, now 90 years old, is the last surviving member of Nicodemus' family (photo Plate V and X). He taught school for several years, including a term at Bunkum School in Richland twp in 1893, where he received \$45 per month for a 6-months' term. In 1889-90 he studied law under Dean Cox, later Governor of Ohio, at the University of Cincinnati Law School (where he remembers having bought at a little restaurant a 21-meal ticket for \$2). He practiced law for a few years, later enlisted in the Spanish-American War but did not reach Cuba. About 1903, or soon thereafter, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. In 1904 or 5, he was in command of Midway Island, with a detachment of 20 marines, where he had the Army bring 100 sacks of soil from Hawaii that vegetables might be grown on Midway. He had Bermuda grass brought from Florida to stop shifting sands on Midway, the Bermuda grass eventually spreading over the whole island, an example of what might be called today a good Point 4 project. In 1910, he was sent via Moscow and the Trans-Siberian RR to Peking, arriving there July 4, 1910, to help guard the American Legation, where he remained for several years. During WW I. he served as a Major in command of two battalions of Marines in France. Retired from the Marines as a Major in 1921, he has lived since then on the old family farm, in the house where he was born, near Gettysburg with his son John, a soldier in France during WW II. Pam is an interesting and stormy character, as is befitting a good Marine.

Delila. Delila was the youngest member of David and Nancy Bigler's family, the six weeks old baby who made the long journey from Washington Co., Penn. to Darke Co. in 1830. She and her brother Nicodemus were living with their mother in Adams twp, Darke Co., Ohio in 1850 (U.S. Census records). Sometime after 1850 she and her husband, Levi Miller (photo Plate VI), went to live in Elkhart Co., west of Goshen. Nicodemus wrote, Aug. 2, 1877: "Levi Millers comes to see me tolerably often and nearly every time they Bring me a Basket full of eatables they have done that every

Since I live here pies Butter applebutter meat cakes ec I do their shoe mending for them then they want to pay me besides for my work I do not think there are Better people in the country than they were they had everything plenty 160 acres of land a large orchard". It is evident from her few letters that have been preserved that she was a gentle person. One of her letters, sent by Nicodemus to his daughter Jan. 22, 1896, reads: "Dear Demus. Here I will send you a little something to eat please accept of it I do not work much spend most of my time reading the Bible The Gospel Messenger, the Christian Herald and a good many other books I am reading the Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln". She and her husband are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery east of their farm at Yellow Creek Brethren Church, Elkhart Co.

Other children. A separate chapter is devoted to the life of Moses Bigler and his wife Mary Miller Bigler (my great grandparents). Of the other children of David and Nancy Bigler, very little information is available.



Daughters of David and Nancy  
Bigler (l. to r.)  
F. row: Phoebe, Julia Ann, Nancy  
B. row: Lydia, Joe Fahnestock,  
and Delila

Copy furnished through courtesy  
of Edythe Neff from original  
photo now owned by Edith Miller,  
granddaughter of Phoebe Bigler  
Miller. Sisters identified by  
Julia V. Cary who had seen photo  
in home of her grandmother Julia  
Ann Maurer.



Rachel Bigler and husband David  
C. Miller (Photos furnished  
through courtesy of Edythe Neff).



Nicodemus Bigler. Copy furnished  
through courtesy of Marguerite  
Bigler Stoltz from original  
photo owned by Epaminondas Bigler.





NICODEMUS BIGLER FAMILY, July 1915 (l. to r.)

F. row, seated: Lewis, David, Epaminondas, Charles, Jane, and Hannah Hershey Bigler.

B. row, standing: Sara Stover, w. of Lewis; Elizabeth Ganby, w. of David; Edward Stambaugh, h. of Jane; Martha Wineland, w. of Charles; Grace, d. of Charles.

F. row, ground: Robert, s. of Charles; James, s. of Epaminondas; Marguerite, d. of Charles; Hannah d. of Epaminondas; Elsie Louridge, w. of Epaminondas.







Amos and Catharine Bigler Family,  
Elkhart Co., Ind., about 1899



Levi and Delila Miller, Elkhart Co., Ind. (l. to r.)  
F. row: Jennie w. of Amos Miller; Amanda, d. of Levi Miller  
B. row: Amos Miller, s. of Levi; Levi Miller and his wife  
Delila Bigler Miller.





Daniel Bigler, and wife Elizabeth Roush,  
about 1877, Elkhart Co., Ind.



Aaron Bigler, Son of Andrew Bigler,  
Goshen Dam, 1940



Edythe Neff,  
Granddaughter of Andrew Bigler,  
Syracuse, Ind., 1950





Epaminondas Bigler  
US Marines, 1916-17



Cyrus Bigler



Perry Bigler  
Washington Co., Penn., 1958



Julia V. Cary  
Granddaughter of Julia Ann Bigler Maurer  
Amlin, Ohio, 1959



VI. MOSES AND MARY MILLER BIGLER

The old family Bible of Moses and Mary Miller Bigler, now in possession of their grandson Ray Bigler, bears the following notation:

*Miller* "Moses Bigler he was born the 29 day of May in the year 1818  
Mary Bigler she was born the 12 of March in the year 1825  
Moses Bigler and Mary Bigler were married July 1843 and united  
with the Brethren Church in the year 1850.  
we had a son Born the 13 August in the year 1844 we Call his  
name Cyrus Bigler  
We had a son Born the 28 July in the year 1848 we Call his name  
Jacob Bigler  
We had a daughter Born The 2 July in the year 1851 We Call her  
Nancy Bigler  
Mary Bigler was born October the 11th 1857  
Sarah Bigler was born the 7th day of June in the year 1854 [she  
died Sept. 26, 1856 and was buried in the Jacob Miller Cem.  
along Harris Creek]  
Lydia Bigler was born the 22nd day of November in the year 1863  
Moses Bigler died the 27 day of April 1874"

Miller Family

Mary Miller Bigler's parents Jacob and Mary Michael Miller lived on the north side of the Harris Creek road, east of Oakland Church. They were among the earliest settlers of Adams twp -- the Census of 1820 reporting Jacob Miller, with a family of five, then living in that township.(1)

Uncle Jake Bigler showed my father and me, in May 1943, the original Miller farm (owned by J. Katherman, according to Map of 1875) and the present stone house that replaced the earlier log house there. The original Miller home was a rude log cabin, open on one side, with a large bear skin serving as the door on the open side. Wolves roamed the woods then. Uncle Jake said that "Old Granny Miller" (Jacob Miller's second wife) remembered when the wolves left this country. "They howled all night and then went away. They never came back", he said. "Where did they go, Uncle Jake?", I asked. "Nobody knows", replied Uncle Jake with awe in his voice. Mary Miller Bigler (my mother's grandmother) told my mother that when she was a small girl returning about nightfall from visiting neighbors, she lost a string of beads that she prized highly. She

(1) Jacob and Mary Michael Miller had at least 10 children: David C. born in Montgomery Co., O., June 8, 1817, m. Rachel Bigler; Michael m. Phoebe Bigler; Mary m. Moses Bigler; Sallie m. Jacob Bashore and lived on a large farm at the edge of Webster; Hetty m. David Warner; John Jacob settled in Kansas; Emmanuel; Henry who operated his father's flour mill at Webster; Susan; and Martin.

was afraid to retrace her steps to search for the beads, as wolves would attack people after dark.

Jacob Miller is said to have been a popular man who accumulated considerable property and who was liberal in his contributions to all worthy enterprises. Nicodemus Bigler wrote of him (Sept. 4, 1877): "i made the Blinds in the old mill [at Webster] for Henry Millers dady when old Jacob owned the mill he wanted me to help to tend the mill". In another letter (July 22, 1892) he mentioned "old Jacob Miller Henry's father I always liked old Jacob and worked a great deal for him". Jacob was born near Louisville, Kentucky, Feb. 17, 1796. His parents were David and Abigail (Morgan) Miller who left Kentucky, on account of their opposition to slavery, when Jacob was about 10 years old. David, a member of the Brethren Church, settled in Montgomery Co., where he died in 1845, (1)

Jacob Miller's first wife, Mary Michael--the mother of Mary Miller wife of Moses Bigler--was the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Mayer) Michael. She was born in Pennsylvania and came with her parents to Ohio when she was seven years old, (2)

Jacob and Mary Michael Miller are buried in a small cemetery on their farm, known as the old Miller cemetery, about 50 feet square, surrounded by a wire fence on a knoll about 100 feet north of the Harris Creek road (see Map). Uncle Jake said the deed to this cemetery, and a five foot right of

(1) Information from Miller Family History, John J. Scruby Printing Co., 1409 East Fifth St., Dayton, O., 1957; and Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs Elkhart and St. Josephs Counties, Indiana, Goodspeed Brothers Publishers, Chicago, 1893, under biography of David C. Miller.

The original Miller immigrant was Phillip Miller, born in Ruthpatz, Germany, sometime prior to 1725. He came with his parents from Germany (because of their opposition to military conscription) and settled in Maryland. Phillip had 3 sons born in Maryland--David, Daniel and Abraham--all members of the Brethren Church, all of whom moved to Kentucky and eventually to Montgomery Co., Ohio. David and Abigail Morgan Miller had at least 8 children: Jacob (our ancestor); Michael; Lydia; Esther; Catherine; Elizabeth; Nancy; and Susan. Their descendants lived in Montgomery and Darke Counties.

(2) Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs, 1893, as cited above. This account is not entirely consistent with Miller Family History which says that Jacob Miller returned from Louisville, Kentucky to Pennsylvania when a young man, that he married Mary Michael in Pennsylvania and that they came from Penn. to Darke Co. in a covered Conestoga wagon--the original wagon bed of which is still at the Isaac R. Miller homestead. Miller descendants say that it has always been an oral tradition in their family that their ancestors came from Pennsylvania to Ohio in this wagon. Apparently the question is whether Jacob and Mary Michael Miller came directly from Penn. to Ohio in this covered wagon; or whether Jacob's parents David and Abigail Morgan used this wagon to go from Maryland to near Louisville, Kentucky and thence to Montgomery Co., Ohio in the wagon.



way to the road, was registered in the Greenville Court House, so that farmers could not plow over the burial place. He and Cyrus Bigler were caretakers for this cemetery for many years, under an arrangement whereby Cyrus' mother gave him and his heirs a sum of \$200, the income of which was to provide for upkeep of the cemetery. There are two stone markers in this cemetery, each about 4 feet long and 2 feet wide, now lying side by side in the overgrown grass, which bear these inscriptions: (1)

Jacob Miller  
Died  
Oct. 8, 1861  
aged  
65 ys 7 mos 21 ds

Mary  
Wife of  
Jacob Miller  
died  
Mar 27, 1842  
aged 42 ys 11 mos  
9 das

When I visited the Miller cemetery in 1956, to photograph these markers, I found an iron star marker by Jacob Miller's grave, bearing the notation "War of 1812", which I had not seen there before. Who put it there, or when, I do not know. It would seem that Jacob Miller served, probably in militia, during the War of 1812. (2)

#### Moses and Mary Bigler

I do not know exactly where Moses and Mary Bigler were living in Adams twp when their eldest son, Cyrus, was born. According to family legend, Moses obtained his first tract of 18 acres (the nucleus of their home farm in Adams twp) in trade for a shotgun. The earliest official records show that Moses Bigler purchased 21 acres from Daniel Lime in Adams twp for \$120 on Nov. 28, 1846; and an adjacent tract of 65 acres from John Bixler for \$355 on Sept. 7, 1849. (3) These two contiguous

(1) There is beside Jacob Miller's marker a third stone marker for Jacob Miller's second wife, also named Mary, who died Aug. 20, 1888, aged 75 years. My Uncle Jake remembered her well, grinning as he remarked: "Granny Miller was a spry old lady. She had no children but liked to visit her stepchildren, driving about in a high buggy when she was too old to get in or out without a footstool."

(2) Ohio Daughters of War of 1812, Index to the Grave Records of Soldiers of the War of 1812 Buried in Ohio, Compiled by Mrs. H. B. Diefenbach, 1945. Page 46 lists "Jacob Miller, b. 1796 d. 1861 bur. Miller Cem., Adams twp., Darke Co. W.P.A. Survey."

(3) The 21 acre tract is the N.W. corner of the S.W. quarter of section 1 of twp 10. The 65 acre tract is the "balance of a tract of 90 acres not deeded to Jacob Stahl out of the northern part of the SE quarter of Sec. 2 in twp 10"--See Darke Co. Deeds 114:33 and 34. The Census of 1850 reports Moses Bigler of Adams twp with real estate valued at \$1200; the Census of 1860 with real estate valued at \$5000; and the Census of 1870 with real estate valued at \$6225.

tracts--shown incorrectly on the Map of 1875 as "Mary Bixler 65 and 25" acres respectively--constituted the Moses Bigler home place where they lived the rest of their lives. Upon Mary Bigler's death in 1908, the two tracts were sold to David K. and Mary J. Martin for \$6365. (1) Moses and Mary Bigler had various other land transactions in Adams and Wayne twps described elsewhere in this history. (2)

Mary Miller Bigler (photo Plate I), known in the family in her later days as "Old Grandma", was a stern, headstrong woman who is said to have ruled her husband with a hand of iron. She told my mother that her step-mother (Jacob Miller's second wife) opposed her marriage to Moses Bigler. Once when Moses was courting Old Grandma, the stepmother, not knowing Moses was nearby, asked: "What is that lazy Mose Bigler hanging around here for?" But Old Grandma went ahead to marry him, implying she was glad she had done so. My mother interpreted this as a hint from Old Grandma that she herself should make up her own mind concerning her future husband--when her own parents were hinting that she should marry someone more prosperous and less inclined to roam than a Burns.

Old Grandma was extremely frugal--"close as bark on a beech tree" according to the local expression. The story is told that she did not want her family to eat butter, as it could be sold for money. So she would place the butter at the far end of the table and her husband would eat his meal without any butter rather than ask her for it. Grandpa told my brother Chalmer, when he and Chalmer were hoeing corn in 1926 or 1927, that Old Grandma became quite furious when Grandpa, as a young man, bought his favorite girl a dollar bottle of perfume. Old Grandma regarded this as an extravagant waste of money.

She disliked living in a log cabin and wanted a brick house. Moses finally built a brick house, but against his will, and always referred to it as the "mud house". The bricks were burned at the same time bricks were burned for the John Jacob Miller house, from clay obtained on John Jacob Miller's farm, when Ike Miller was a small boy (i.e. about 1860) according to my Uncle Jake. Moses' mud house, a sizeable two story structure with fireplaces and interior walnut woodwork, has been unoccupied for many years. It is located at the house site on the farm marked incorrectly on the Map of 1875 as the "Mary Bixler" farm. My mother, my brothers and I visited it in December, 1958, when the photo was made that appears here on Plate II. It is said that when the house was being built, Moses would sometimes slip away to fish all day in Stillwater River, near Springhill (photo Plate III). When he worked, he worked hard. But he did not like to work all the time. Sometimes he liked to fish and enjoy solitude, according to his nephew Charles H. Bigler. My mother recalls that Grandfather Cyrus Bigler liked his father very much.

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(1) Sold April 8, 1908--Darke Co. Deeds 148:341.

(2) Purchase of 40 acres from Jacob Wineland, N.W. corner N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1 twp 10, May 12, 1871 DC deeds 57:488. Various tracts purchased in Sections 35 and 36 of Wayne twp, were eventually sold to their sons Cyrus and Jacob Bigler.

Moses Bigler died April 27, 1874 in his fifty-fifth year from heart strain incurred in building a chimney for the new house of his son Cyrus. His wife remained for some time thereafter on the home farm until the youngest daughter Lydia married. Then she lived with Lydia and her husband Charles H. Jackson, but visited for long periods with her other children, with her brother John Jacob Miller in Kansas and with her relatives in Elkhart Co., Indiana. Her son Cyrus farmed some of her land (which he eventually bought). She would try to dominate him, would order which crops to plant, and would watch him with an eagle eye to see that she got her full share of the crop. He would listen to her quietly, would not argue with her, but would do what he thought best. It annoyed her very much that she could not get an argument out of him but she respected him, too, for she knew he was fair and could not be bullied.

Old Grandma could not write--her will was signed Mary x Bigler--  
her  
mark  
and when she read it was not silently but in a loud whisper. But she could do accounts and calculate interest in her head with lightening speed. One of her sons, Jacob, became involved in financial difficulties and was always trying to borrow money from his mother. Although she gave him money, she always told my mother (who wrote the letters she dictated to her son Jacob) to add at the end of each letter "Tell Jake I don't have any more money for him". My mother would omit this injunction when Jake had not asked for money, but Old Grandma did not know this as she never asked to have her letters read back to her. Old Grandma dated events in her early married life with reference to whether they occurred "before Jake was born" or "the year Jake was born", or "after Jake was born". Although exacting in collecting every cent owed her, she gave away her money to her children. When Cyrus' second wife, Ida Seifert, suggested that she spend some of her money on herself, Old Grandma replied "All right, you decide what to buy for me".

Old Grandma once visited my parents when we lived near Arcanum and I was a baby. She rocked me and sang to me. I have a vague impression of an old old woman, dressed in black, who bent over my bed, and I was frightened. My mother says that she rarely talked at meals, not being given to light conversation. She could not quite understand why my father talked and laughed through dinner but she liked him and enjoyed his jokes. When she left, she gave my mother a dollar to buy sugar.

Old Grandma died Feb. 14, 1908. She and her husband were both buried in Oakland cemetery. The old marker for Moses' grave is crumbling but beside it is a newer marker, erected by Cyrus, for both his parents. These markers read as follows:

Moses Bigler  
Died  
Apr. 27, 1874  
aged  
55 ys. 10 mo.  
& 7 ds

Moses Bigler  
1818-1874  
A. 55 y 10 m 7 D  
Mary Bigler  
1825-1908  
A. 82 Y 11 M. 2 D.

Mary Miller Bigler's will of May 21, 1897, as finally amended Aug. 10, 1905, provided that upon her decease her estate should be divided equally among her five children, except that the fifth normally going to her son, Jacob (less \$575 that he owed her) should go to Jacob's wife and children. A codicil in her will, dated Aug. 10, 1905, stipulated that any heir attempting to set aside the will would be debarred from any distribution of her estate. (Darke Co. Record of Wills, p. 505.) Cyrus Bigler and her son-in-law John Long filed an executor's account on Nov. 25, 1908, showing a balance of \$9,984.85, available for distribution to the heirs, as follows (Darke Co. Estates Records):

Cash for sale of land, 65 acres in Sec. 2 and 21 acres in Sec. 1, of twp 10 to David K. and Mary J. Martin, on May 29, 1908.	\$ 6350.00
Cash from checks	371.61
Sale of wheat	64.50
Sale of corn, July 2, 1908	162.30
Notes:	
Charles H. Jackson, 1907	1683.43
Cyrus Bigler, note for \$2000 of 7/17/1906	2058.00
Cora Bigler	64.50
Account against Lewis Lime	60.00
Total	<u>\$10814.00</u>
Payments and expenses	829.55
Balance for distribution to heirs	<u>\$ 9984.85</u>

### Children

The heirs of Moses and Mary Bigler, as indicated in the estate record, were Cyrus Bigler of Wayne twp., Mary J. Martin and Nancy Long of Adams twp., Lydia Jackson of Covington, O. and the family of Jacob Bigler of Rothbury, Michigan.

Jacob Bigler, who resembled his brother Cyrus in physical appearance, once owned three farms in Miami Co. near Covington, and later lived north of Horatio (see Map of 1875, on a farm later owned by my Uncle Earl Bigler) but eventually he went bankrupt. When his creditors attempted to attach his horse and wagon, he continued on the highway--where they could not be seized legally--until he reached Michigan beyond their jurisdiction. He settled at Rothbury, Michigan where he remained the rest of his life. He returned briefly to Darke Co. when his mother's estate was being settled. His wife was Emma Yount and their children were: Clark O. who was a schoolteacher and later engaged in real estate business at Miami Beach, Florida where he is said to have become wealthy; Jacob; Coral; Bessie; Cyrus; Olive; Mary; and Queen. A descendant of one of these children is now living at Beaverton, Michigan, Mrs. Harry (Betty) Whistler.

*wrong* She is daughter of Andrew Long of Beaverton, Mich. See p. 67

Nancy married John Long, May 13, 1872, and they lived on a farm in Adams township (see Map of 1875, farm then owned by Moses Bigler). Old Grandma, who stayed with them sometimes in her later years, used to say: "John Long is

such a good man; that is why he gets such good crops<sup>11</sup>. John Long died Oct. 24, 1918; Nancy died Oct. 3, 1928; and both are buried in the Harris Creek Brethren cemetery. They had 8 children, of whom four went to the Mt. Morris Academy - College in Illinois and four to the Manchester Academy - College in Indiana, both Brethren schools. Their children were: (1)

1. William. b. April 30, 1873. He studied at Mt. Morris for 2 years. For many years he managed large farms at Mt. Carroll, Ill. He is still living.
2. Jacob. b. June 19, 1875. He was superintendent of grade schools at Greenville, Ohio. He died at the age of 83.
3. Jesse. b. Aug. 24, 1877 and d. 1948 Rolla, N. Dakota. He was a farmer and a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.
4. Andrew. b. April 14, 1880. He attended Mt. Morris Academy, taught school and became cashier of a bank in Beaverton, Michigan, where he died in 1935.
5. Harvey. b. July 31, 1882. He received a B.A. from Mt. Morris College in 1918; taught school for many years and became treasurer of the Kable Brothers Printing Co., Mt. Morris, Ill. Retired, he is now living at 110 N. Seminary Drive, Mt. Morris but travels in the Near East and Europe.
6. Samuel. b. Feb. 25, 1886. He attended Mt. Morris Academy, was a mail carrier in California, and now lives on the home place in Adams twp.
7. Cyrus. b. Aug. 7, 1890. He was a corporal in WW I, serving in Archangel, Russia. After the war he worked as a draftsman in automobile companies in Detroit, and later with the Douglas Aircraft Co. in California.
8. Mary Susan. b. Aug. 13, 1893. m. Simon Irick who was principal of schools in various towns in Indiana.

Mary J. Bigler, wife of David K. Martin, lived on an 80 acre farm north of the David Bigler farm. I remember him well, a large man with a bushy beard and twinkling eyes, who liked to listen and laugh as he played such records on the old fashioned Victrola as "Uncle Josh goes Coon Hunting" and "Train Time at Pumpkin Center". He died Oct. 11, 1929, and his wife May 30, 1938 and both are buried at the Harris Creek cemetery. David

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(1) The John Long and Nancy Bigler Long Family Record, compiled by Harvey and Pearl Long, Mt. Morris, Ill., 1958. Copy loaned me by Mr. Samuel Long, RD, Bradford, April, 1959.

Martin was once a schoolteacher, and Mary also taught school for a short time. Their children were: Lawrence, who taught grade school in various Darke Co. schools for many years; Bertha, who taught grade school for 29 years, chiefly at Gettysburg; Lydia, the wife of Ora Miller; Oscar Martin, a farmer who bought the old David Bigler farm in 1917; and Henry who lived near Union City.

Lydia Bigler married Charles H. Jackson of Adams twp in 1886 who later owned the Jackson Stone Co. of Covington, O. and for 23 years the Jackson Farm Implement Co. of Troy. He was a Commissioner of Miami Co., 1911-1919. They were members of the Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill. Both died in 1946 and were buried in the Covington Cemetery. Their children are: Mrs. Mabel Wackler, Mrs. Bertha Thompson, Andrew and Wilford, all living in the vicinity of Covington; Mrs. Vivian (Martha) Faulker of Troy; and William who lived in California.







VII. CYRUS M. BIGLER - HIS LIFE (1)

Cyrus M. Bigler, my grandfather, was of the fifth generation of Biglers in America.

The first four generations had been pioneers, always moving westward from the place where they were born to settle in a new land. Mark had emigrated from the Rhineland, at the age of 28, to settle eventually in Frederick County, Maryland. His son Israel, having spent most of his mature years in Frederick County, migrated from there at the age of 57 to western Pennsylvania. Israel's son, David, moved from western Pennsylvania at the age of 43 to establish himself in Darke County, Ohio. David's children moved with him from western Pennsylvania to settle either in Darke County (as did Moses Bigler) or to continue westward to Elkhart County, Indiana. Some of the Elkhart Biglers continued the pioneer movement to the Pacific Coast.

Cyrus Bigler was a settler, spending all of his life within a mile of where he was born on his parents' farm in Adams township, August 13, 1844. He inherited and carried on a family pattern of life that reflected the traditions of his forefathers. Their pattern of life was based upon agriculture, for the Biglers had been farmers for many, many generations. They had a great reverence for land. Their goal was to acquire land, to develop the land into fertile farms, with good houses and barns, and to pass on these farms to their children. They were modest people, not seeking great wealth, or national fame, and not much interested in national political affairs. Few sought political positions; and fewer still military careers, for almost all opposed military life. They wanted to be prosperous farmers. What they did they tried to do well. They were builders and organizers by nature--a characteristic that runs through many generations of Biglers. Few indeed resorted to slick methods and short cuts to make their fortunes. They depended upon honest toil to achieve what they wanted of worldly goods.

Their family pattern was patriarchal. They wanted many sons and daughters, for it was part and parcel of their way of life to pass on their material possessions to their children. The tradition of "carrying on"

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(1) This chapter was written in April 1959 at the red brick farm house in Richland twp, Darke Co., Ohio where my parents lived since 1920 and where I lived as a boy. (See Plate IV). It was written on a small wooden desk, made at the time Moses and Mary Bigler built their brick house (see Plate II). Old Grandma, that is Mary Bigler, gave the desk to Cyrus Bigler's family and they gave it to me while I was still in grade school. As I wrote this account, springtime was in the air in Ohio. Willow and buckeye leaves were beginning to appear, and bees swarmed in and out of the brick wall above my window. My mother was stirring about with her flowers and in the garden. And across the fields I could hear my brother Harold plowing with his tractor. The fish were beginning to bite in Stillwater River. One evening my brother Chalmer caught the biggest fish I ever saw come from Stillwater, a 19 pound carp 34 inches long. These were sure signs that spring had come to Ohio.

was strong among these people. If there were no sons and daughters, some of their *raison d'etre* ceased to be; and the pattern was broken. If they were not much interested in national horizons, they were, by way of compensation, strongly interested in the material and spiritual welfare of their families and their communities. They were people of religious faith, at peace with themselves. Through successive generations of Biglers, many were active in the churches of whatever religious denomination they chose to belong; and many had long careers as teachers in their respective communities. For the most part they were serious people, honest, kindly, not much given to frivolity or to the light arts, but keenly interested in life and generally ready to lend their efforts to help build a good community.

This was the family pattern that Cyrus Bigler inherited. He had little direct personal contact with the outside world beyond his immediate farming community. But he had qualities--natural wisdom, a shrewd understanding of human nature, a kindly outlook upon the world, and a zest for work and life--that evoked the respect of those who knew him.

He represented a generation, midway between the original frontiersman and the mechanized farmers of today, that converted the Ohio forest land into farms. He represented a phase of American country life, with a set of values that I hope will not be lost. I am writing this account of my Grandfather Bigler, as I remember him over 30 years ago, because he lived a full, interesting and useful life, because I was fond of my grandfather, and because I wish to pass on to others my recollections of his qualities that made him the person he was.

The story I write here is of country life in Darke County, Ohio as I knew it in my boyhood and as told to me by my grandfather and others of the family.

### Boyhood and Early Youth

When Cyrus Bigler was a small boy, most of the country in Adams and Wayne townships was heavily wooded. The woods were so thick that he would cut the bark from one side of the tree - hacking three trees in a straight row and then another three trees in a straight row - to avoid losing the way when he ventured far from home. Cows roamed wild in the woods, as did the hogs that fed on beech-nuts and acorns. Stillwater River was filled with fish that one could net by the bucket full. And wild game abounded everywhere. Grandpa was greatly concerned in his later years that the streams were being fished out and the game becoming more and more scarce.

As a small boy, he worried about the world drying up. This worry never quite left him, as he always feared "dry spells" in the years I knew him. Once there was an old man wandering about the countryside who had an almanac that he used to predict the exact day the world would end. Grandpa, as a small boy, listened to the old man's predictions of impending doom and was nearly scared to death. One evening, when running down a path to get the cows, he happened to glance up where it seemed the stars were darting about in the sky. This was

it, thought Grandpa - the end of the world! So he ran faster and faster, until he discovered that the shaking stars were the result of his own running. When he told me this story in his seventies, he still seemed annoyed at the old man and his almanac.

Once, he overheard his parents complaining about a neighbor's chickens that were eating and scratching in the Bigler cornfield. "Someone ought to kill those chickens", they said. He pondered over the problem, and, without divulging his intentions to anyone, loaded the muzzle loading rifle, waited in the cornfield until he saw two chickens lined up in a row, and then killed both with one shot. When his parents discovered the dead chickens in a hollow stump, they traced the deed to him and were about to punish him. But, protested he, "you said someone should kill those chickens". Turning to me with a chuckle, he concluded "I had them on that".

In his youth he attended school at Webster, later at Greenville, and then for two terms at Whitewater College, Centerville (near Richmond), Indiana. This was a small academy or junior college run by the Methodists from 1853 to 1870. He spoke often of this college, giving the impression that he had enjoyed it very much. I do not know why he went there, but Uncle Charley told me in 1957 that it was because Grandpa, hoping to become a teacher, wanted higher education than could be obtained in the local schools. A friend of Grandpa's from near Bradford, who attended Whitewater at the same time, became very homesick but his father, a Methodist minister, refused him permission to return home as his tuition had already been paid. Finally, the boy, in desperation, wrote his father that he had met a Catholic girl and was going to join the Catholic church so he could marry her. This, he thought, would galvanize his Methodist father into granting him permission to come home. But, to his chagrin, the father replied: Go ahead. It is better to be a good Catholic than a bad Methodist.

Grandpa's biography states that he taught school from the age of 17 (1861) until he was married in 1868. (See photo taken when he was a young school teacher, Plate III). His obituary noted that he was a teacher for many years in the schools of Adams and Wayne townships and that he had started many youth "on their way to an education and to an upright and useful life". He spoke often of his teaching experience, especially the debating societies. I understood that he was a leader of the Webster debating society. He regarded debating as good intellectual exercise that enabled one to keep "posted" (the local expression for keeping abreast of current affairs). He taught school at Webster, Horatio and also at Erisman school about two miles north of Bear's Mill on the road to Stelvideo. The latter school building is now used as a private home. Across the fields to the south is the Erisman's old brick farm house where he boarded while teaching there. When Grandpa became a teacher, one of the first things he did was to buy a gold watch. He was quite proud of this watch and wore it all his life. He passed it on to Uncle Charley who requested that it be given to me (as was done in 1957). I shall pass it on to a Bigler descendant who will undertake to keep it as a family souvenir.

His first post as a school teacher paid \$75 for a 7 month term and he had to "buck his own wood", according to Uncle Charley. This was a log school, one mile north of Bradford (and one-half mile from the east end of Harris Creek road, about 20 rods north of the road, at a spot now marked by a cedar tree). He also taught at a school on the Piqua road, on the right bank of Trotter Creek. When Christmas came, the big boys, obstreperous fellows who were older and larger than he, asked whether he would treat them at Christmas with candy and popcorn as was the custom in country schools. They threatened, and eventually threw him into the creek in the dead of winter, because he refused to disclose his intentions. Then, when Christmas came, he gave them "treats". He said he had refused to tell because a surprise was a surprise. The big boys apologized and never gave him any more trouble. This, he said, turned out to be the best school he ever had.

Marriage to Lydia Lowe, Oct. 1, 1868, and to Ida Seifert, Oct. 23, 1890.

Cyrus Bigler married Lydia Ann Lowe, October 1, 1868. She was born in Palestine, German twp, Darke Co., May 9, 1851, the daughter of George Lowe who later abandoned his family and went to live in Canada. Her mother (we do not know her name) died in Horatio. (1) The Lowe children, it is said, had to support themselves. Lydia had a sister, Belle, who married James Kester of Arcanum and another sister Ella who married a McClanahan or Hanahan (if my mother remembers the name correctly) who lived in Kansas. She had two brothers, Jacob and John Lowe, the latter who lived in Kansas resembled my Uncle Clyde in physical appearance.

Lydia Lowe worked as a hired girl for Joe Warner who lived east of Horatio (see Map of 1875) in the same house that is still standing there beside a tall pine tree. Cyrus boarded at the Warners when he was teaching school in Horatio. He told Pam Bigler that he was very much interested in girls during the year he taught at Horatio. Pam's mother--a twin sister of Joe Warner's wife--said that Lydia was a very good girl and well liked by the Warners. It is reported that she was quite good looking and that the Warners favored Cyrus' courtship. Lydia was a Methodist and remained so all her life.

When Cyrus and Lydia were first married, they lived with Cyrus' parents. Lydia's sister, Belle, told my mother that Cyrus' mother (Old Grandma) did not

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(1) Lydia Lowe's place of birth as given in Cyrus Bigler's biography--see appendix. Date of birth from family Bible now in possession of my Uncle Ray Bigler. The only known photograph of Lydia Lowe is an enlargement now owned by my mother made many years ago from an original small photo that has been lost. Belle Kester said the enlargement is not a natural likeness of Lydia Lowe. Belle Kester and Mrs. Ira Petersime told my mother Lydia was a beautiful girl. My Uncle Jake Bigler told me some of the Lowes are buried in a small church cemetery on the Greenville-Gettysburg Pike about 2 miles west of Bear's Mill but I could not find any markers there. I was unable to locate George Lowe in the Census records for 1850 and 1860 in the townships Adams, Wayne, German or Greenville.

treat Lydia well, that she made her work very hard, and that when Lydia sewed herself a new hat, Old Grandma laughed at it. At first, Lydia could not cook well but was eager to learn. She asked everyone for recipes and eventually became a very good cook. Belle (whom my mother resembles in physical appearance and in her dignified manner) disliked Old Grandma to the end of her days because of her treatment of Lydia.

Cyrus bought an 80 acre farm east of the present "new road" to Buzzards' Glory School in Wayne twp., for \$3,000 on September 10, 1868, shortly before he got married. Cyrus and Lydia soon moved to their new farm where their first two children, Lulu and Charles, were born in the little log house, formerly a school house, that stood in the southeast corner of their farm. It is not quite certain whether Earl was born in the log house or the new white frame house. All the other children were born in the white frame house that Cyrus built there about 1874 (photo Plate III). Here Cyrus and Lydia lived the rest of their lives.

Cyrus and Lydia Bigler had four sons and four daughters, as follows (see photo Plate I): (1)

1. Lulu May. b. April 9, 1870; m. Noah Grove May 9, 1889. Lived at Sturgis, Michigan, most of her life. d. Oct., 1955 and buried at Versailles, Ohio. Their children were: Mary, who taught school at Ohio City and married Burt Wise of that town where they now live; Stella, also a former schoolteacher, who m. Ross Michael; Mildred who m. Nelson Holt; Carl of Flint, Michigan; Roger, an athletic coach in Sturgis, Michigan; Don of New York City.
2. Charles Orville. b. April 9, 1872; m. Mary Wade (1st) and Lillie Monroe Selby (2nd); d. 1957. Buried in Harris Creek Cem. He worked for the Pennsylvania RR most of his life, lived in Bradford, and was a member of the Bradford Church of Brethren. His only child, Ivan, a lieutenant in the Marines during WW I, was a baseball player and coach in a boys school in Worcester, Mass., for many years.
3. Harvey Earl. b. Feb. 26, 1874; m. Olive Brewer Feb. 6, 1898. Lived on farm north of Horatio 1905-28 and in Gettysburg, Ohio until his death Sept. 2, 1938 (buried at Gettysburg). Member of Oakland Church of Brethren. Their only child, Bernice, was a schoolteacher before she married Ray Petersime Oct. 21, 1920. They live at Gettysburg where he owns the Petersime Incubator Co. He has been a trustee of Manchester College (Brethren), N. Manchester Ind. for 30 years. Their children are: Marvin b. Aug. 10, 1921 m. Marjorie Metzger and they have one son Alan; Ruth Carol b. Sept. 29, 1925 m. Norman Miller and they have four sons, Leland, Gary, Steve and Philip; Norman Ray b.

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(1) Birth, marriage and death dates obtained chiefly from Cyrus Bigler family Bible now in possession of his son Ray Bigler; supplemented in some cases by obituary records furnished me by my mother.

April 19, 1932 and d. March 4, 1935; Mary Anna, b. Dec. 25, 1934 now teaching in a mission school at Lassa, Nigeria; and Esther Fern b. March 27, 1936 now doing voluntary church work in Castaner, Puerto Rico.

4. Jacob L. b. April 15, 1876. d. Mar. 10, 1957, buried Versailles Cem.; lived on farm in Adams twp, across the road from his father's farm, most of his life; m. Ida Farmer Sept. 10, 1899. Member of Oakland Church of Brethren. Their only child Lucille m. Emery Brandt, a County Commissioner of Darke Co., and lives in Webster, O.
5. Clyde Elmer. b. March 9, 1878, d. Feb. 1, 1939, buried Versailles Cem.; worked for Penn. RR 1901-1938, during most of the time as a conductor; member of Bradford Methodist Church, m. Carrie Lee Robinson of Webster, March 8, 1900 and lived in Bradford most of his life. Their children were: Ruby who married Harold Wagaman and lives at Troy, Ohio; Thelma who married Richard Caywood and now teaches grade school in Bradford; and Robert who married Maude Griffiths and now resides at 89 Spring Ridge Drive, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Robert, who was a captain in the Merchant Marines for many years, is now manager of Operations of the Atlantic Division of the California Shipping Company.
6. Estella Maud. b. Feb. 4, 1880 m. Charles Schellert Feb. 5, 1923. d. Oct. 11, 1945 and buried at Versailles Cem. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Versailles. During most of her life she lived on the home farm and took care of her father in his later years. I remember her as an extraordinarily kind and understanding person greatly beloved by her nephews and nieces.
7. Mabel Grace. b. Oct. 4, 1882. m. Marley A. Burns Jan. 1, 1905 (b. Aug. 18, 1880 on farm formerly owned by his grandfather Joseph Mendenhall McDonald - see map of 1875 - one-fourth mile n.e. of Webster, Ohio; d. Feb. 11, 1955 and buried at Versailles, Ohio). She and her husband and children are members of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Versailles. They lived on an 8-acre farm near Arcanum, Ohio, 1906-20; and on an 80-acre farm in Richland twp, Darke Co., since 1920. Their children are: Norman b. Nov. 14, 1905 on the Petersime farm across the road from the McDonald farm, m. Constance Albrech of Rochester, N.Y., graduate of Wittenberg College and Yale University, now Director of the U.S. Operations Mission, Amman, Jordan; Chalmer Eugene, b. Dec. 20, 1910 near Arcanum, now an inspector in the Delco plant of General Motors Co., Dayton, formerly married to Wilma Stocker of Ansonia, Ohio, and has two children Robert m. Anne Agaston, and Rebecca Sue; Harold Bigler, b. Nov. 6, 1918 near Arcanum who served as a sergeant in armor in the 20th U.S. Air Force, 15th Squadron, in Guam during World War II and now operates the family farm in Richmond twp (photo Plate IV) which he bought from his mother Oct. 30, 1959. Since Thanksgiving Day 1959 she has been living at Webster (RFD, Bradford, Ohio)
8. Bessie Blanche. b. Dec. 21, 1884. d. Nov. 25, 1951 and buried at the Stelvideo Cem. Member of Stelvideo Congregational Christian Church. m. Edward Brewer June 10, 1906 and resided for many years on the Brewer home



CYRUS BIGLER FAMILY, about 1898

F. row: Bessie, Cyrus, Ray, Ida, Earl, Lulu  
 B. row: Clyde, Mabel, Charles, Stella, Jacob



Cyrus Bigler, Mother Mary Miller Bigler,  
 Daughter Lulu and Granddaughter Mary







Oakland Church of The Brethren, 1958



David Bigler House, 1958



Moses Bigler House, 1958





Cyrus Bigler Home, 1942



Cyrus Bigler



Stillwater River at Springhill, 1958





Buzzard's Glory School, 1958



Mabel Bigler Burns  
at Buzzard's Glory School,  
Jan. 1959



Marley and Mabel Bigler Burns Home, 1956



David Bigler's signature on power of attorney authorizing his son Daniel to represent him in the settlement of the estate of his father Israel Bigler. Document dated March 12, 1840, before Common Pleas Court, Greenville, Ohio, filed No 11 B.1840 Washington, Penn.

David Bigler

Signature of Moses Bigler and mark of Mary Bigler on deed for sale of 80 acres to their son Cyrus Bigler, Sept 10, 1868. Original deed now in possession of Ray Bigler.

Moses Bigler Seal  
Mary Bigler Seal  
Mark

Signatures of Cyrus M. Bigler and Lydia A. Bigler on document mortgaging their 80 acre farm to Mary Bigler for \$627. Original document dated Nov 22, 1883 now in possession of Ray Bigler.

Cyrus M. Bigler Seal  
Lydia A. Bigler Seal

Cyrus Bigler's signature on Christmas Card to his grandson Norman Burns, postmarked Dec 20, 1927.

Grand pa Bigler





farm near Stelvideo. Their children: Helen who m. Charles Williams, both of whom are graduates of Ohio Northern University and who have been teachers in the high schools of Versailles, Bradford and Gettysburg for many years; Ralph who is a farmer near Stelvideo; Ray a county road inspector at Greenville; and Edith, wife of Carl Wagner, a farmer living near Bradford.

All of Cyrus Bigler's children, including Ray the son of his second marriage, attended school at Buzzards' Glory, north of Springhill (see Plate IV). Grandpa never taught there (although he served as a member of the school board), but his cousin Charles H. Bigler taught at that school when my mother and some of her sisters attended there. My mother remembers that he was very much liked as a teacher. Charles H. Bigler told me that when he first wanted to teach at Buzzards' Glory, he consulted Grandpa who told him "there were cranks on the school board but he would see what he could do". When Charles H. called upon one of the board members, Bill Wolfe, Wolfe said he knew Charles H. was a cousin of Cyrus Bigler but Cyrus couldn't help him on this matter. But Wolfe said he would cast a favorable vote, if Charles H. gave him a ten dollar bill. That is how Charles H. obtained the teaching post at Buzzards' Glory.

Most of Cyrus' children did not attend more advanced schools after they completed Buzzards' Glory, except Ray who graduated from Versailles High School in 1913, Lulu who took a summer "normal" course at Webster, and Jake who studied for a short time at Angola, Indiana. Since Grandpa had been a school teacher and (according to my impression) favored education, I do not know why his children, unlike his sister Nancy Long's children, did not continue in more advanced schools. When I queried my mother on this subject, she replied that if the children had wanted more advanced education, her father would have agreed and helped them but that if they did not he would not have tried to persuade them to do so. She says his philosophy was that they should decide such things for themselves. Remembering as I do his keen interest in history and debating, I think it is curious that he did not give more positive encouragement to his children to continue their higher education.

According to family tradition, Cyrus and Lydia had hard times in the early years of their marriage. Cyrus was heavily in debt for his farm and new house. The family was large. His health was not good, for as a young man he had suffered from lung trouble (possibly T.B.) which he cured by spending much time in the open air in the woods. He thought that his wife would outlive him and that if he died young he would leave a wife and a large family in want. So, as he explained to my mother, they "had to do without", that is they bought very little. After Lydia died, he expressed regrets that he had not given her more things in the years that she had lived. They could not afford rocking chairs in the house. Sometimes, he said, they had only 25 cents worth of sugar for the whole summer. At the same time, his brother, Jacob, had married a girl from the well-to-do Yount family, and they had many things in their home that Cyrus and Lydia could not afford. Then, as Cyrus was beginning to "get on his feet" financially (according to the local expression), he lost virtually everything

through failure of the Kusnick Bank in Versailles. He was able to retain his own farm only by heavily mortgaging it to his mother and to a Philadelphia loan company in 1883 and 1884.

Despite their financial difficulties, one gathers the impression from little episodes remembered by their children that Cyrus and Lydia were happy. One story I recall, passed on to my mother by her Aunt Belle, was that Cyrus, serious and sober as he usually was, used to act "silly" around his wife and kiss her in front of other people and that she would say in embarrassment "Hush Cy, don't do that".

In the midst of this, Lydia suffered injuries in a run-away horse and buggy accident, when she was thrown from the buggy against the gate post as they turned into the Bigler lane, from which she succumbed June 17, 1887. My mother, who was then only 4 years old, remembers a vague and disturbed feeling that something was wrong, she did not know quite what. Her mother would moan in pain and call for her baby, Bess. My mother remembers how she and Bess gathered a bouquet of old fashioned June pink roses and took them into the bedroom where their mother smelled the roses and continued to moan from pain. She asked that Cyrus spare no expense to save her, for the sake of her children. And when she passed away, Grandpa "broke down and cried so much", according to my Aunt Lulu. My mother still remembers how very lonesome it was after their mother had gone. She remembers, too, how Grandpa Bigler, driving in the surrey with his family to Oakland Church, would study his Sunday School lesson until he reached a place in the road where the Oakland cemetery came into view. Then he would glance up from the Sunday School lesson, and with a sad expression look across the fields to the Brethren cemetery where Lydia rested. Her grave is near that of Moses and Mary Bigler. It bears the inscription "Lydia A, wife of Cyrus Bigler died June 17, 1887 aged 36 y. 1 m. & 8 d." Carved on the reverse side, so faintly I could hardly read it, is: "LOWE As a wife devoted, as a mother affectionate, As a friend (undecipherable) and true".

Not much information is available concerning Lydia's father, George Lowe, except that my mother and Uncle Jake regarded him as a "black sheep" who deserted his family. Uncle Jake was a prolific source of legends about George Lowe which my mother reluctantly admits having heard when she was still living at home. Lowe was a carpenter who lived on the Greenville-Gettysburg pike near New Harrison. At one time, he lived in Horatio diagonally opposite Sam Sheet's store. Uncle Jake says George Lowe came to the United States from England. He always subscribed to an English paper, which my mother and Uncle Jake understood to be a paper of the English aristocracy; and he would curse the English aristocracy. They believed he was of the English aristocracy but had had to flee the country because of misdeeds there.

"Lowe was a tricky one", said Uncle Jake. During the Civil War, he attempted to escape military service, was captured and brought handcuffed in a wagon to Greenville. As the wagon crossed the Greenville Creek bridge, he jumped his guards, escaped and disappeared somewhere in Indiana where he got a blacksmith friend to cut off the handcuffs. Another time he was seen breaking into a grocery store at New Harrison at night, apparently to steal groceries.

People surrounded the store to capture him but he slipped through their cordon and was never caught. Uncle Jake thought he came originally from Maryland, or had relatives there. George Lowe abandoned his children in Darke County and disappeared to Canada. Uncle Jake did not know what happened to his wife. After he died, a woman in Canada wrote to the family in Darke County to inquire whether he had any property there. He did not - and that was the last anyone heard of George Lowe!

After Lydia passed away, Old Grandma lived with Cyrus' family for long intervals but would not stay there permanently because she said that at her age she could not stand all the work involved with such a large family. When she managed his household affairs during these intervals, she used the egg money to pay for groceries but, no matter how great the need, she usually contrived to set aside a dollar from the egg sales for Cyrus' savings fund.

On Oct. 23, 1890 Grandpa married Ida Maria Christine Seifert of Webster, a Lutheran, the daughter of Hermann and Clara Seifert who had emigrated to this country from Saxony, Germany. By this marriage there was one son, Ray, born Dec. 21, 1893, who now owns and operates the home farm. She was a fine woman, moderately well educated in the Webster school where she had studied under my great grandfather Joseph McDonald. She, too, had been a grade school teacher in Webster. She was greatly beloved by her stepchildren whom she raised, and by all of her grandchildren who always knew that Grandma liked little boys and girls to ask her for ginger cookies. When I was older, she gave me a subscription to the Youths Companion which interested me so much that I could hardly wait from one issue to the other. I remember especially how she used to play old German tunes on her accordion.

She understood how to deal with Grandpa and Old Grandma when they became too tight with money. Ida Seifert, it seems, followed the German custom of having a light snack of coffee and coffee cake in the middle of the morning, between breakfast and lunch. Old Grandma would complain and scold that this was a waste of time and money. Ida would keep quiet until the coffee and cake were on the table, then she would say, "Come, Grandma, have a bite to eat". Old Grandma would always join at the table, scolding slightly as she enjoyed the cake and coffee. When Old Grandma wished to discuss something the children should not know, she talked with Grandpa and Ida Seifert in Pennsylvania Dutch and Ida replied in High German.

Grandpa wanted his daughters to dress well but, frugal by nature, he hated to spend money. When Ida asked him for money for their clothes, he would often say "Haven't any". Once, after he had said this, a neighbor came to him to borrow money. Grandpa went to his bookcase where he kept his money and gave the neighbor the sum requested. Ida, who happened to see this transaction, went to Grandpa afterwards, looked him squarely in the eye, and said "Now, Pa!" Grandpa smiled in a "sheepish way", according to my mother, and the next day gave Ida the money needed for the children's clothes.

When my mother was a young woman, she desperately wanted patent leather slippers that were beginning to come into vogue then, but her parents insisted upon high top button shoes. My father, then courting her, gave her

a pair of patent leather slippers (which my mother told me last year was "the nicest pair of slippers I ever had"). But when Grandpa heard of this, he snapped at her "I can buy your own shoes" and turning to his other daughter Bess, who had received a present from her fiance, informed her "That goes for you, too, Bess".

Webster in the days when my mother was a girl was an important social and commercial center, with its post office, grocery store, flour mill, saloon, blacksmith shop, school and church. There were no rural mail carriers, so the farmers drove buggies to Webster to pick up their mail, chat with their friends, and buy groceries. Stamps were then 2¢ for a letter. Grandpa Bigler collected at the Webster P.O. various papers to which he subscribed, including the Ver-sailles Policy, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Saturday Evening Post. The principal groceries bought by farmers were sugar, salt, rice and coffee - one pound paper sacks of "Lion" coffee then costing 15¢. When my mother was small, there were no oranges or lemons in the Webster grocery store but later, while she was still at home, oranges and lemons became common, especially lemons which were quite popular with the farmers for lemonade. The first huckster my mother remembers was a certain Pug Long from Stelvideo, who travelled from farm to farm with a grocery wagon drawn by a team of horses. The farmers' wives usually sold chickens and eggs to the huckster to pay for their groceries. When my mother was small, the grocery store and post office of Webster were operated by George Wissinger, the blacksmith shop by Mr. Shimp and the saloon by "old Charley Seifert". Whisky drinking was all too common in those days. The Methodist Church was the only church in Webster then. Grandpa Bigler used to drive there with my mother and her sisters to attend Sunday school, then held on Sunday afternoons, and thereafter they would have Sunday dinner with his Aunt Sally Bashore who lived on the west edge of Webster. There was no mill in Webster in my mother's day. But in earlier times, a grist mill was owned and operated by Jacob Miller (Mary Miller Bigler's father) and his son Henry. According to my father, a miller at Webster, who used to grind flour for the farmers on a percentage basis, had a dog that would eat flour as it poured from the exit spigot by the grinding stone. That was how the miller "fed" his dog. One day, as a farmer watched the miller's dog eating his flour, the miller asked: "How long will that damned dog eat that flour?" The farmer, annoyed by the slowness of the grinding and by the dog eating his flour, replied "Probably until he starves to death".

One gathers an impression from various episodes that occurred as the family grew up that Grandpa, unselfish as he was in most things, expected the family to adjust themselves to his convenience as head of the family. He seems to have taken this for granted, in accord with the patriarchal tradition of his background. It may be that his mother, who regarded him as the apple of her eye, and his wife Lydia who was very fond of him contributed towards this tendency. Grandpa always sat at the head of the table, he was served first at meals, and it is said that "the family waited on him hand and foot".

#### Farmer

Cyrus Bigler, like so many Biglers before and after him, wanted to accumulate land. His first purchase was the 80-acre tract in Section 36 of Wayne twp., on Sept. 10, 1868. This tract had been sold by the State of Ohio to Henry Stahl in 1833 for \$100 - see photostat of original sale document, signed by Governor Robert Lucas of Ohio, that is now in possession of Cyrus Bigler's

**ROBERT LUCAS,**

**GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO,**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME--GREETING:

**KNOW YE,** That in consideration of the sum of *One Hundred*  
Dollars, and \_\_\_\_\_ Cents, paid by *Henry Stahl, of Clark County,*

*Ohio* to *Joseph G. Young, Receiver of Miami Canal Lands, at Piqua, O.*  
for the purchase of the tract of land herein described, lying and being in the county of *Clark*

and granted by an act of Congress, entitled "An act to aid the State of Ohio in extending the Miami Canal from Dayton to Lake Erie; and to grant a quantity of land to said State, to aid in the construction of the Canals authorized by law; and for making donations of land to certain persons in Arkansas Territory;" which said tract of land has been fully paid for, agreeably to the returns of the Register and Receiver of said District, made to this office: Therefore, in pursuance of "An act to provide for the sale of certain lands granted by Congress to the State of Ohio," there is granted by the State of Ohio, unto the said *Henry Stahl*

and to *his* heirs and assigns, forever, *the West half of the South West Quarter of Section number Thirty Six, in Township number Eleven, of Range number Three (East) of lands selected for the extension of the Miami Canal. Containing Eighty Acres of land, more or less, in the Cincinnati land district*

**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD,** The said *Eighty*  
\_\_\_\_\_ acres of land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Henry Stahl*  
and *his* heirs and assigns, forever.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said **ROBERT LUCAS**, Governor of the State of Ohio, hath caused the **Great Seal** of the State to be hereunto affixed, and signed the same with his hand, at **Columbus**, this *Twentieth* day of *August* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty *three*

BY THE GOVERNOR, *Robert Lucas*  
*W. H. Kirby* SECRETARY OF STATE.



son Ray. This 80-acre tract had been sold by the Stahl heirs to Moses Bigler on Dec. 17, 1853 for \$850 who had sold it to his son Cyrus on Sept. 10, 1868 for \$3,000. (1) This was Cyrus Bigler's "home farm" where all of his children, including my mother, were born.

On Dec. 10, 1881. Cyrus Bigler bought from his brother Jacob 80 acres west of the "new road" in Section 35 of Wayne twp for \$4,000. (2) Later he was forced to sell this 80-acre tract as a result of financial losses incurred from failure of the Kusnick Bank of Versailles - one half being sold to his mother for \$2,400 and the other half to his youngest sister Lydia for \$2,400, on Jan. 22, 1884. (3) Eventually, through an involved chain of transfers, he repurchased the last of the 80 acres from his mother in 1906. (4) The Plat Book of Darke County, published in 1910

(1) Darke Co. Deed Books: 90-567; L2-62; 92-525. The deed of sale on Sept. 10, 1868 described the tract as the "West half of the South West quarter of Section Thirty Six in Township 11 of Range Three East Containing Eighty Acres More or Less in Darke County". The deed was signed "Moses Bigler and Mary <sup>her</sup> X Bigler".  
mark

The original survey of Sections 36 and 35 in Wayne Twp was made by Daniel C. Cooper, July 1801. His survey notes show that he walked from the S.E. Corner of Section 36 westward, along what was later the south side of Cyrus Bigler's farm, to the S.W. Corner of Section 36 which he described as "½ mile good 2nd rate soil Timber Ash Oak, Hickory etc." From the S.W. Corner of Sec. 36 he proceeded northward, over what is now the "new road" and past the spring at Spring Hill bridge to "a sugar tree on the banks of Still Water, across the river into a bottom, ascending a bank on an Oak flat" to the present site of Buzzards' Glory School. Note of Survey in National Archives, Washington.

(2) Jacob Bigler had obtained this 80-acre tract from his father Moses Bigler who had bought it in 2 parcels: one on March 19, 1861 from Framp-ton and Amanda Oliver described as the E half of E half of SEQ. of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, for \$650; and the second on Jan. 7, 1862 from Framp-ton Oliver described as the W. half of E half of the SEQ of Sec. 35 containing 40 acres, for \$600. Darke Co. Deed Books: U2-185; and R2-153.

(3) E half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, to his mother Mary Bigler; and the W. half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, to his sister Lydia Bigler. Darke Co. Deed Books: 90-118; 89-293.

(4) Lydia Bigler (who married Charles H. Jackson) resold her 40 acres to Cyrus Bigler and his mother Mary Bigler for \$2400 on Aug. 1, 1891 - i.e. the tract described as the W. half of the E. half of the SEQ of Sec. 35.

Mary Bigler then sold her share of this 40-acre tract - viz. W. half of the W. half of the E half of SEQ of sec. 35, containing 20 acres, to Cyrus Bigler for \$1, on Sept. 2, 1897. At the same time, Sept. 2, 1897 Cyrus Bigler sold his share of this 40-acre tract - viz. E half of W half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35 - containing 20 acres to his mother Mary Bigler, for \$1. Mary Bigler then resold the same 20 acre tract to Cyrus Bigler for \$1200 on March 19, 1901. Darke Co. Deeds: 198-374; 198-375; 198-376; 198-377. The 40-acre tract purchased by Mary Bigler from Cyrus Bigler on Jan. 22, 1884 - viz. E half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35 - was resold by Mary Bigler to Cyrus Bigler on July 17, 1906 for \$3,000, Darke Co. Deeds: 140-561.

by the Northwest Publishing Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, shows "Maplewood Farm" of 160 acres owned by Cyrus Bigler. (1)

When Grandpa first went to live on his home farm, it was almost entirely woods. As stated in his obituary, "He located on the farm home when a young man and with his own hand cleared most of it, and in doing this cultivated not only the land but a love and knowledge of nature that made him an able horticulturist and authority on agriculture in its finer phases. He saw beauties in nature that only its lovers see and his trees were above money value to him".

Clearing of land was an arduous task. Grandpa worked at it all his life. He was still clearing a few acres in the east 80, south of the woods, when I remember him. To clear land the large trees were girdled and then eventually sawn or chopped down. Limbs and brush were generally burned. Stumps were blown out with dynamite, a dangerous chore that cost many a farmer loss of life or limb. After clearing, the black, loamy "new ground", rich in humus, yielded wonderful crops.

Grandpa loved the land and woods. He made good use of his woods and, at the same time, developed a fine stand of timber that Uncle Ray was maintained to this day. He seemed to have inherited something of the old German reverence for trees. As my mother told me in July 1958, "One thing stands out that I remember - his love for trees. I can see him put his hand on a tree trunk and look up and say what a magnificent tree. The trees were so tall in his woods; he almost worshiped a beautiful tree". He knew the names of all the species. During the winter and early spring months, he spent much time in the woods cutting down over-age trees for lumber and firewood. The Germans, he said, took good care of their woods. They used even the little twigs and roots which in this country would be wasted. He gave me the impression that the Germans were a methodical and economical people.

Grandpa was handy with the axe. His wood shed was usually well stacked with cut wood drying for use in the kitchen stove. A hopper stood near the woodshed where wood ashes were accumulated throughout the year. These ashes were used, in conjunction with waste fats from the kitchen, to make laundry soap. All of the family laundry soap was made in this way. For toilet use, they bought "Grandpa's Tar Soap".

In early spring, when sap began to flow, Grandpa tapped the many maple trees in his woods for sugar water. This was done by drilling a hole on the south side of a maple tree, into which was inserted an iron or wooden spigot about six inches long. A tin bucket was placed below the spigot to catch the

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(1) That is 80 acres east of the "new road" in Sec. 36 and 80 acres west of the "new road" in Sec. 35. An earlier Atlas of Darke County, published by Griffing and Stevenson at Philadelphia, in 1875, shows Cyrus Bigler with 80 acres east of the "new road" in Sec. 36 - the white frame house as well as the original log house being shown on this map.



dripping sap. The sugar water was hauled by sled to a central place in the woods, known as the "sugar camp", where it was poured into a huge kettle boiling over a big wood fire. Here the sugar water was boiled into a thin maple syrup which was then taken to the house for further boiling over the kitchen stove (milk being added to the boiling syrup to clarify it) to make maple syrup for table use or maple sugar candy. Sometimes the fire at the sugar camp would burn all night. Wood was piled high to form a shelter for those who slept there to watch the fire. When I walk in these woods today, I remember how my mother, upon her arrival "home" used to ask her stepmother "Where's Pa?" and she would reply "He's been in the woods all day". It seems to me as though something of his spirit still lives in these woods and along Stillwater.

The major farm crops were wheat, corn, oats and hay. The crops were well cared for, and he waged never ending war against weeds.

The big event on the farm was threshing, as Grandpa raised 40 acres or more of wheat every year. Wheat and oats were threshed by a machine on wheels that was operated and moved from farm to farm by a coal powered engine. Each farmer would exchange help with other farmers, as a sizable crew was needed to run the entire operation. When the threshing machine arrived at a farm, all the farmers who owed that farmer labor would gather to help him thresh. Some men in the field pitched sheaves of wheat from the wheat shocks to horse drawn wagons. Others piled the sheaves high on the wagons and drove the wagon to the threshing machine where the sheaves would be thrown into the machine to separate the grain from the straw. A tornado of straw was blown from one end of the machine, and a river of clean fresh wheat flowed from the side of the machine into sacks. The sacks were hauled by wagon to the barn where the wheat was stored in bins to await the highest price for sale.

When loading sheaves on the wagon, the men would taunt boys about doing only a half-a-man's work. The boys, invariably falling into the trap, would half kill themselves trying to keep up with the men. The test of a man was whether he could keep up with, or ahead of, the other men - and woe betide the one who fell behind. Water boys would bring jugs of lemonade or water to the men in the field and at the threshing machine. This I know from my own experience - nothing ever tasted quite so good this side of heaven as a tin full of lemonade during a hot dusty threshing day!

As the threshing progressed, farmers would try to estimate their probable yield of grain. This was a tense moment. Reports would come back to the women in the kitchen that "Pa thinks it will run better than 30 bushels to the acre" (a good yield) or "Pa thinks it won't make 20 bushels to the acre". If the yield appeared high, everyone tried to hide the smug look on their faces. This meant money in the bank for next year, new dresses for the women, new farm tools for the men, and maybe a bicycle for the boy. If low, the family was cast into gloom - another year of "skimp and save". Farmers in our neighborhood made it a point not to brag openly about their yields. They would pretend indifference until a neighbor farmer, unable to restrain his curiosity any longer, would ask casually what

they thought "crop would make". The reply, announcing a very high yield would be "Oh, we only got 35 bushels to the acre. Rust knocked us out this year", but later he would say to his wife or son, "You should have seen old Bill's face when he heard I got 35 bushels to the acre".

Threshing was hard work but the huge country dinners more than compensated for the work. If a farmer's wife was known as a good cook who provided good "threshing dinners", everyone wanted to exchange help with that farmer. Both the farmer and his wife would be proud of their reputation for "setting a good threshing dinner". If the wife was a poor cook, we would try to avoid exchanging help with that farmer, unless there were strong reasons for helping him. The Biglers always had a good threshing dinner for the women were good cooks and Grandpa always said of the threshers: "They work hard, Give them the best". The threshing hands used to come from the field, wash themselves lustily in tubs of cold water, then "set down" to the table. Then the farm wives would hurry back and forth to the kitchen to place more food on the table. The men would hardly talk at all, as they devoured fried chicken and dressing, boiled or fried beef, fried ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, "store cheese", red beet eggs, pickles and enormous slices of berry or lemon pie or chocolate cake. No one can understand how much a hungry harvest hand can eat, nor how quickly he can eat it, unless he sees such a miracle with his own eyes.

Grandpa used to recall that in his youth, he had cut wheat with a cradle and separated grain from the straw with a flail. He knew how to swing the cradle in easy sweeps that could be sustained all day long. Less experienced hands, who lacked the knack of the swing, would "play out from backache" in a few hours. Recalling the early days, Grandpa always seemed amazed at the speed and ease of harvesting wheat with a binder and threshing by machine.

Uncle Charley, who had once run away from home to join a circus passing through Versailles, had his own use for the wheat bin. When a young man, he buried a bottle of whiskey deep in the grain of the wheat bin, thinking that his father, who disapproved strongly of liquor for religious reasons, would never find it there. But Grandpa, exploring the granary to ascertain whether the grain was over-heating, happened to find the bottle. "Is this yours?" he asked Uncle Charley. "Well, said Uncle Charley, who saw no graceful way out of his predicament, "If it isn't yours, I guess it must be mine".

Grandpa's favorite crop was corn. He liked to have his corn cribs filled with big golden ears. He used to say that if a man had a good crop of corn, he could get along well on a farm. If not, there was something wrong with him. During the delirium of his last sickness, he imagined that someone was breaking into his cribs to steal his corn. In his early days, he planted corn with a hand planter. When horse-drawn corn planters became available, he was among the first to take advantage of this labor-saving device. Once Grandpa hired a stranger to help him shuck corn on the stalk. The stranger, a big middle aged fellow, said to Grandpa who was then in his seventies, that he would work at a moderate pace so Grandpa could keep up with him. Grandpa said nothing but continued to work at his normal speed. At the end of the day, said Grandpa with a twinkle in his blue eyes, the hired man was a long way behind him and almost too tired to walk home.

He raised some tobacco but did not like the crop very much. He had one of the first mechanical tobacco planters in that part of the country. New types of farm machinery that would cut down on farm labor always appealed to him.

Like other farms in this locality, Grandpa had dairy cattle, hogs and chickens. Chickens were the responsibility of the women of the family who used "egg money" to buy groceries. The men always pretended that they did not want to be bothered with chickens (except, of course, fried chicken dinners). While Grandpa did well financially with his cows and hogs, I never had the impression they interested him very much.

The farm had an acre orchard of apple, peach, cherry and plum trees, and a half acre or more of blackberries, raspberries, strawberries and grapes. The garden, of half an acre, produced currants, gooseberries, asparagus, melons and the usual vegetables. Apple butter making was an important event in the fall. I can still see the giant copper kettle near the wood pile with cider boiling furiously into which peeled apple quarters and sugar were added at the proper time to make apple butter.

When Grandpa's children started families of their own, it was their custom to "go home" when the berries and fruit were ripe to pick as much as they could for their own use. A holiday atmosphere prevailed then, when my parents, uncles and aunts were busy picking berries for themselves. The small fry, Cousin Helen, her brothers, Chalmer and I, would sense that the grown-ups were in an unusually good mood. We would help pick berries, eating almost as many as we picked, until we could escape the vigilance of our elders to pursue our own devices.

When Cousin Helen and I were quite small we went into the beverage business. We used Grandpa's sausage grinder (without his knowledge) to squeeze green apples for cider. This operation attracted swarms of flies but yielded a brew that we regarded with great pride. The operation was discontinued at the "request" of our grandparents who must have had serious doubts about this unorthodox use of their sausage grinder!

Grandpa kept 20 to 25 hives of bees on the south side of his house where the hives would have both sun and shade during the summer days. He knew well how to handle bees. The bees were always swarming from their hives to the orchard, reminding me of small boys swarming away from their homes. Honey was for home use and for sale. In combs it would sell for 15 to 20 cents per pound. Hollyhocks, purple and white hyacinths, roses and other flowers grew in profusion around the bee hives and the "bee house" where Grandpa stored his honey.

The farm water system intrigued me as a boy. There was a deep dug well that always yielded a good flow of cool water. The water was conducted through a wooden trough into the so-called "spring house" where it flowed into cement vats. Crocks of cream, butter and berries were placed in the vats to keep cool, a scene that always reminds me of the lines by James Whitcomb Riley about the old spring house "where the swinging shelves

and the crocks were kept, where the cream in a golden languor slept, while the waters gurgled and laughed and wept - Out to old Aunt Mary's." A wind-pump raised water from the well into a wooden tower reservoir which provided gravity pressure to supply water for a water trough in the cow yard and for a hydrant to sprinkle the lawn. Beside this water tower there are orange tiger lilies growing to this day that were planted there by Lydia Bigler.

Farmers of today, accustomed to cash purchases at chain grocery stores, would be astonished to know how much of the Bigler family's food and farm requirements were produced on the farm itself. All of the meat, vegetables, fruit, berries, maple syrup, honey and sorghum cane molasses were home produced. Butter was made in hand operated wooden churns. Wheat flour was obtained from the Hager and Landman mill at Versailles under an arrangement where Cyrus Bigler deposited a certain quantity of grain at the mill and received a "flour paper" on which was checked off his periodic withdrawals of flour. All bread was baked at home in the oven of the kitchen stove fired with wood. As a small boy I used to like especially a big slice of bread from the loaves when they were still hot from the oven, the slices spread with rich country butter and brown sugar. Even the yeast was home made. This they obtained by growing a few hops on poles in the garden; the hop pods were brewed into tea which was mixed with corn meal; and when the mixture achieved a proper consistency, it was dried for later use as yeast in baking bread. Hominy was made by boiling the kernels of ordinary field corn in water (to which was added a small amount of Red Seal Lye) in a copper kettle until the heart separated easily from the remainder of the kernel. The kernels, without the hearts, were washed carefully in cold water and stored in jars which, covered with plates, were placed in the spring house until needed. Apples and sweet corn were dried in a dryer, above a slow wood fire, and then put in muslin pokes to be hung in a dry airy place for winter use. Sage was grown in the garden for sage tea, a general tonic and remedy for colds. Sassafras roots were dug from the woods in the spring to make sassafras tea, a tonic that was thought to "thin" the blood after a long winter of sluggishness. Seed wheat, seed corn, lettuce seed, radish seed and onion sets were all obtained from the farm itself.

In Grandpa Bigler's day, they did no home spinning of cloth, but home made mattresses were stuffed with feathers or straw, and pillows were feather stuffed. In Old Grandma's time, she used a spinning wheel to make coarse woolen cloth for sheets, pillow cases, towels and covers for feather bed mattresses. Until Cyrus Bigler bought a hard coal burner, a great luxury in those days, all stoves burned wood. Not until later years did anyone buy commercial fertilizer for their crops. With virgin soil, and the manure from the horses and cows about the farm, high crop yields were obtained without any commercial fertilizer. Animal feed was also grown on the farm, commercial mixes then being unknown. Cash purchases were confined chiefly to farm implements and tools, horse drawn carriages and wagons, stoves, kitchen utensils and table ware, cloth, clothes, shoes, coffee, sugar, salt and toilet soap (laundry soap being made at home). Some farmers even made a substitute "coffee" by roasting wheat bran but Grandpa Biglers always used "boughten" coffee in our day.

Thanks to all these operations, there was an atmosphere of plenty about the Bigler farm. The corn cribs were filled with corn, the bank barn bulged with hay, the smokehouse was filled with hickory smoke-cured hams and sausage, the bee house was fragrant with the smell of smoke and amber combs of honey, and the cellar shelves were loaded with crocks of apple butter and canned berries. Grandpa had none of the miser's love to acquire material goods merely for the sake of hoarding. Rather he derived satisfaction from seeing himself surrounded by the produce of his own toil, products available for the use of himself, his family, and neighbors in need. The labor required to operate such an establishment was enormous in comparison with present day mechanized farms. But he enjoyed hard work. In comparison with present day farming, integrated as it is into the national economy like other forms of business, his farm was largely a self-sufficient economic unit and farming less a business than a way of life.

### Other Activities

Grandpa Bigler was a man of many interests. It is difficult to classify his activities as "work" and "recreation". He worked as hard at "recreation" as he did at regular work. And he enjoyed his "work" as much as he did his recreation.

Most important of all was his participation in the Oakland Brethren Church, the church which his parents had attended from the very beginning when the Oakland church was built in 1866 as a split off from the Harris Creek Brethren Church (see Plate II for photo of Oakland Church). (1) He attended that church regularly all his life, serving as a Sunday School teacher for many years. Mr. Charles C. Miller (of Roann, Indiana, a former

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(1) Oakland Church was built in a 2.62 acre tract deeded by Jacob Martin to the Church Feb. 11, 1866. The deed stipulated a price of \$5 but Mr. Rudy Etter says it was probably really a gift, the \$5 being named merely for legal reasons. The deed was held by John C. Miller, later by Cyrus M. Bigler and eventually by my Uncle Jake Bigler.

The story is told by Epaminondas Bigler that when the Oakland Church was being built, his grandfather Joe Hershey and John Martin, both excellent ax men, were chopping down trees when they fell into a heated argument as to the best way to chop down a particular tree. Brother Hershey struck his axe into the tree in a certain way. Brother Martin threatened to cut off Hershey's axe handle; whereupon Brother Hershey shouted, "If you cut off my axe handle, I'll cut off your head". Before Oakland Church was built, Moses and Mary Bigler as well as David and Nancy Bigler must have attended the Harris Creek Brethren Church. Nicodemus Bigler mentioned in one of his letters that he attended Harris Creek Church at one time.

The Oakland Cemetery was first begun when Jacob Martin's small son, Daniel, was buried at that place in August, 1842. Jacob Martin then deeded the Church in 1861 a plot 40 ft by 100 ft., including the place where his son was buried - that was the formal beginning of the Cemetery. Additions to the Cemetery were made in 1866, 1870 and 1938. The best source of historical information on Oakland Church and Cemetery today is Mr. Rudy Etter, RFD, Bradford, Ohio.

Brethren minister, and son of Isaac Miller) wrote me Oct. 30, 1958: "I knew Cyrus M. Bigler very well having lived as neighbor and went to Oakland Church together. I would have to say that he was a very intelligent, industrious Christian citizen. Somewhat of a quiet disposition. One of the Oakland churches best adult Sunday School teachers and counselors". Grandpa's account book for 1923-27 shows that he made quite a few \$100 contributions to Oakland Church and to the Brethren College of Manchester, Indiana.

Grandpa did not always conform with the conservative Brethren discipline. In the early days, Oakland opposed Sunday Schools, so Grandpa attended the Methodist Sunday School at Webster until Oakland began its own Sunday School. Then he became one of its regular teachers. Grandpa liked to wear a black tie when he went to church or town. Senior members of the congregation, worried about this unorthodoxy, went to his home as a group to reason with him. He listened quietly as they explained how ties were sinful vanity. He said nothing until they had finished and then, in a quiet, matter-of-fact manner, told them that he liked ties and would continue to wear them. The Elders drove away. According to their creed, they could have struck him from the church rolls. But he continued to teach Sunday School and the tie problem was never mentioned again.

Grandpa's particular friends at Oakland Church were I. B. Miller, the undertaker at Gettysburg, Ohio, and Dr. John Ballinger, who had begun his medical practice at Webster but later moved to Versailles. After religious services on Sunday, these three would linger on the church steps, the last to leave the church; and Grandpa's second wife, Ida, called them the "Three Wise Men". Another close friend was John Long, husband of his sister Nancy, who attended Oakland; and D. G. Wenrick, a farmer associated with the German Baptist Mutual Insurance Association whom Grandpa admired very much.

Pam Bigler, who seemed to be at odds with the Oakland Brethren on some occasions, told me last year that Cyrus Bigler was "king of the Oakland Dunkards". I asked him what he meant. "Well", said he, "When Cyrus wanted a thing done at Oakland, he would tell them his views. Then he would go away before they had a chance to argue with him and the people would then do what he had asked."

The Oakland Brethren Church maintained a strict moral discipline and "heckled" its members when they strayed from the straight and narrow path. Once they heckled my Uncle Charley on account of my mother. When my mother was about 18 she and her sisters, Stella and Bess, went to a grange festival where one of the attractions was a voting contest in which the girl obtaining the highest number of votes received a ring as the prize. My mother's step-mother had warned the girls not to allow their names to be entered on the voting board, as the boys who voted for them would try to drive them home after the festival. But when my mother arrived there, she and a friend Laura Zimmerman, allowed their names to be placed on the board. Uncle Clyde lobbied for votes for his girl. Uncle Charley did not like this, so he quietly corraled votes for my mother which he held out of the contest until the last minute when he suddenly threw his bloc of votes into the count to win the contest and the ring for my mother. Uncle Charley was then "heckled" by the church for what they regarded

as gambling. And my mother receive a severe scolding by her step-mother. But my mother did not seem to be very penitent either about her own transgression or Uncle Charley's sinning for her sake for, as she told me this story last year, she concluded: "It was a pretty band ring. I can see it yet, such a pretty band ring that I wore until it was thin".

Grandpa Bigler was a stockholder in the Kusnick Bank of Versailles. This bank, established by Francis Kusnick who had come to Versailles in 1861 from Switzerland, paid farmers much higher interest rates on deposits (12% according to Charles H. Bigler, or up to 20% according to Pam Bigler) than they could obtain elsewhere. So Kusnick attracted many deposits from farmers. Then suddenly he went crazy, departed to Cincinnati for a cure and never returned to Versailles. Examination of the bank books revealed that the assets, too, had departed. When the bank failed in 1883 or 84, the farmers were in a panic. Some threatened to "get" Kusnick. Others who had lost heavily "hit the jug and brooded by the fireplace all day long", according to Pam. Grandpa lost heavily in this venture, apparently as a result of his stockholder or partnership status which made him liable for the bank's debts. On Dec. 8, 1884, he was forced to mortgage his east 80 acres (Sec.36) to the Provident Life and Trust Co. of Philadelphia for \$2000 (interest 7% payable semi-annually) in addition to a mortgage of \$627 on the same tract to his mother on Nov. 23, 1883. (1) At the same time he had to resell his west 80 acres (Sec. 35 west of the "new road"), one half to his mother for \$2400 and one half to his youngest sister Lydia for \$2400, on Jan. 22, 1884 (Darke Co. Deeds 89:293 and 90:118). When the Bank failed, Grandpa was appointed to settle its accounts, apparently because the farmers trusted his honesty. For about a year he would walk from his farm to Versailles (about three miles each way), work all day at the Bank, and walk home to the farm in the evening to do his farm work. Charles H. Bigler, recalling Cyrus' walks to Versailles, said that he wore high leather boots, looked like General Grant, and never said much. Grandpa told Pam Bigler he interviewed farmers, help determine their share of the bank's assets - they received so many cents on the dollar - and that he found this "interesting work" the pay from which helped to offset his own financial losses. It was during this work that Grandpa bought his first fountain pen which Pam says he carried with great pride.

For many years he was a Director of the German Baptist Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Covington, Ohio. The company, known after World War I as the Buckeye State Mutual Insurance Association, now has assets of over one million dollars. In the winter, he would travel over the countryside in a horse-drawn closed buggy to sell fire insurance and collect premiums from farmers. I never heard him discuss the financial profit derived from this side-line of business but he talked a great deal about the value of fire insurance to farmers. In those days farmers suffered much from fires that started from defective flues, over-turned kerosene lamps, or spontaneous

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(1) The \$2000 mortgage was repaid and the mortgage lifted Dec. 8, 1889. Information on these mortgages from official papers in possession of my Uncle Ray Bigler.

combustion in hay mows. Fire engines rarely reached a fire until after it had consumed the entire house or barn, and a farmer would find his life's work wiped out in an hour. For these reasons, Grandpa was a strong believer in fire insurance and sometimes made speeches on the subject before insurance groups.

He used to serve on the Grand Jury at the Greenville Court House. Sometimes when participating in the Grand Jury, he would take the electric trolley at Greenville to visit us near Arcanum where we lived until I was 14 years old. My parents and I were always impressed by his work at the Court House. "Grand Jury" seemed to me more important than "Petit Jury". On those occasions, I recall Grandpa as looking very dignified. He would wear a dark suit, a starched white shirt, the black tie, and a black hat with a wide brim. His white beard, which would grow bushy almost in Santa Claus fashion when he was working on the farm, would be trimmed to almost a point. His blue eyes twinkled. I was always hoping that the other pupils at the No. 9 grade school, across the road from our house, would see me then with my grandfather who was serving on the Grand Jury.

Grandpa Bigler was a Democrat but not active in politics. His biography states that at times he held local office, such as township assessor. Pam Bigler told me that once, when he (Pam) was planning to run for Congressman in the House of Representatives at Columbus, he and many teachers were eating at a long table in a restaurant in Greenville where teachers were wont to gather (meals cost 20 cents there said Pam). Someone asked Cyrus Bigler, who was down the table below Pam, whether he too was running for Congressman. Cyrus replied with what Pam said was a bark in the back of his throat: "I've never got that low yet. Never fell that low". Pam, overheard him and became furious. He said Cyrus was angry because he regarded politics as crooked business and didn't like to see people mixed up in it.

Fishing, I suppose, was his favorite recreation, as it was for so many of the Bigler clan. But he did not relax at it, content to sit by a hole until a fish decided to bite. If they did not bite fairly soon he would hurry (almost run) to another hole, until he had caught some fish or decided they were not in a biting mood. Fishing with Grandpa was a strenuous affair for a boy of my age, as I had to run along beside him through willows, briars and ravines when he strode, with mighty enthusiasm, from one hole to another. He knew all the good fishing holes along Stillwater River for several miles in either direction from Springhill (photo Plate III) where on a hot summer afternoon he and I used to drink the cool spring water. This spring is still my favorite shrine. Grandpa caught many kinds of fish along Springhill including white bass, catfish, sunfish, gogeli, suckers and carp. He knew that when the wind blew from the north or east the fish would not bite. He liked to fish after early supper, as the twilight hour along the river was almost like a magic time, when big fish would splash out of the water and occasionally muskrats would swim by on their hurried chores. This was the best time of all to get a "big bite".

Grandpa had a fish net, concealed in a corn crib, that he used at night. He, his sons or my father would hold the net across the river while others would



beat the water to drive fish into the net. Grandpa never gave up use of the net, despite its illegality, because he seemed to feel that the fish were here before the law was enacted and so the law was artificial. The illegality never bothered him at all. In fact, I think he derived quite a lot of satisfaction from getting around this artificial law. Grandpa Bigler was, in fact, an expert on fish nets. He had three types of nets that he kept concealed in his corn cribs: a seine net that was dragged along the bottom of the river like a minnow seine; a trammel net that would be set across the river, the fish being "herded" down stream to enmesh themselves in pockets in the net; and a dip net that was dropped to the bottom of the river and pulled out of the water when enough fish had gathered over it to make the haul worthwhile.

When fishing, Grandpa liked to have his grandchildren accompany him, if they could keep up with his fast stride. It annoyed him when they lagged behind. Then he would tell many interesting things about how the streams were full of fish when he was a boy, the names of different trees and plants, and old Indian stories. One of these stories, that he had heard as a boy, concerned an Indian who, long after the Indians had left this country, returned to Stillwater to wander up and down the river searching some said for silver buried there by the Indians or others said for the graves of his ancestors. Many a time Grandpa used to say he himself would like to come back and walk along Stillwater a hundred years from now, to see what changes had occurred.

Grandpa told me an Indian was buried on the Job Shaffer farm, on the bluff along the left bank of Stillwater immediately after the river turns southward below the old Shaffer house, in Richland township. A huge rock marked the spot which Lloyd David and I once started to dig up until stopped by his father who told us in no uncertain terms that he "didn't want no Indians dug up around this place". Lloyd and I always suspected that his father was half afraid of being haunted by a dug-up Indian. This rock has since been rolled down the bluff into the river. Grandpa used to find many arrowheads, some of which he gave me for my collection of arrowheads.

In his younger days, Grandpa used to hunt squirrels with a muzzle loading rifle. My mother remembers his fife and powder horn and Uncle Ray remembers that he was a "crackshot" in squirrel hunting.

Grandpa traveled frequently throughout the country-side, to the county seat at Greenville, to the Celina Reservoir to fish, and occasionally to the Ohio State Fair at Columbus, but the only long trip he made, to my knowledge, was an excursion with some other farmers to Niagara Falls. He spoke of this trip as though it had been to a far country. It seems that somewhere along the way the group got lost. They fell to arguing among themselves about what to do. Finally several farmers said "Let's wait to see what old Cy Bigler does and then we'll follow him". Grandpa explained to me how he "kept his eyes open and got where he wanted to go",

Machinery and mechanical gadgets intrigued him. But unlike his son, Uncle Ray, who had great natural aptitude for technical matters, he had

no more than an average mechanical skill. He was fascinated with machinery, almost as a boy is fascinated with their novelty. He was always among the first in the neighborhood to buy new labor saving farm machinery. He and Uncle Earl bought their first automobiles in 1913, large chromium plated, 4 cylinder self-starter "Davis" automobiles costing \$1550 each. Another early purchase was a hand cranked Victrola which played his favorite records, Red Wing, Whistler and His Dog, Harry Lauder's Breakfast in Bed on Sunday Morning, and various Caruso selections. When country telephones were installed, his was among the first. From incidental remarks of my mother, it seems that she and her sisters talked so much over the telephone with their friends on the county line, that Grandpa and the rest of the family were hard put to it to find a time when the telephone was free. This, of course, is mere hearsay. In one corner of the large living room by the hard coal burner (where I used to like to watch through the bulging isinglass front the glowing coals on a cold winter night), he had a revolving office chair and a large roll top desk with many pigeon holes and glass front top shelves filled with books. The drawers were filled with fountain pens (which fascinated Grandpa all his life), a microscope, a telescope and miscellaneous gadgets.

Grandpa did not find it easy to make mechanical things work properly; and he depended upon Ray for such matters. My mother remembers that he used to get utterly furious in putting stove pipe from the stove to the flue as he would not get the joints to fit properly. Her step-mother would number the pieces of stove pipe to make it easier for him but he would get mixed up just the same as if the joints were not numbered.

### Philosophy

Grandpa Bigler would not have used the word "philosophy" to describe his outlook upon life. What we call philosophy he referred to as his "views". He did not talk much about his views. What he did was to live his daily life according to principles in which he believed. One had to deduce his views from what he did.

His was a benevolent outlook upon life. He liked people and was sometimes amused by what they did. His attitude was kindly, but not unmixed with a shrewd understanding of human nature that made it difficult for anyone to "do him in". He was modest, but firm and dignified, in his relations with others. He gave people a feeling that he was interested in what they were doing. Although firm in his own convictions, he showed human charity towards the weaknesses of others. I think he measured men more by what they tried to do than by their actual accomplishments. I know that he was little impressed by my great grandfather Captain Thomas A. Burns whom he regarded as a vain man but he respected my other great grandfather Joseph McDonald who was a modest person. There was something in his character - moral strength, vitality and human sympathy - that gave encouragement to others. Many a time I have heard my father say, when he was struggling with the heavy debt on his farm, that he never talked with Grandpa but that he felt encouraged in what he was doing.

Grandpa was deeply religious in a quiet way but he never sought to impose his convictions on others. I think he was interested more in the essence than in the form of religion. His influence, as aptly expressed in his obituary, was extended for the things that made the place where he lived a better community.

He helped his neighbors when they needed help but he did not talk about it. He loaned his farm tools to neighbors when they were in need and, in one instance, when he tried to get back the loaned tool the neighbor had kept it so long that he thought of it as his own. He did not interfere in other people's business, unless they asked his opinion. Neighbors used to consult him often because they know they could rely upon his judgment and fairness. It was a common practice with many of them, before making a decision to "see what Cy Bigler thought about it". As Charles C. Miller put it: "I know my father had a great deal of confidence in Mr. Bigler for at various times when some trying problem would come up, he would say 'I would like to get Cyrus' advice on what to do'". (Letter to Norman Burns Oct. 30, 1958). He used to say he always believed a man was "straight" until he had proven himself to be "crooked". I have heard him say, too, "If you can't say anything good about a man, don't say anything at all".

Only once do I remember Grandpa giving me advice. He took me aside, when I was in high school, and in a half-serious, half-quizzical tone said "Norman, I'm going to give you some advice: you can't get something for nothing; and you can't beat a man at his own game". I listened gravely for, like all his grandchildren, I had great trust in Grandpa. But, in retrospect, I wonder why he thought I needed such counsel. However that may be, it was not bad advice for either men or boys.

Like so many of the early settlers, he felt that America was the land of opportunity. There was so much room that anyone could make a good living, and educate his children, if willing to work. Equality of opportunity, and democracy, were assumed as implicitly as the air we breathe. If a man did not make a good living, there must be something wrong with the man himself. Grandpa Bigler, tolerant though he was in most things, disapproved of ne'er-do-wells, unless the fault was not their own. He worried that "this country is filling up with people". (1) The old country was already so crowded that

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(1) Actually the county was "filled up" rapidly over the last 100 years. Of the 387,200 acres of land area in the county, only 102,977 acres were "improved" farm land in 1850 whereas 246,830 acres of cropland were "harvested" and 32,742 acres of cropland pastured in 1954. "Unimproved land and woods" shrunk from 284,223 acres in 1850 to 26,624 acres of "woodland, pastured or not pastured" in 1954. Production of the three major cereal crops was as follows:

		<u>1850</u>	<u>1954</u>
Wheat	bu.	132,594	1,025,615
Corn	bu.	590,077	6,537,981
Oats	bu.	115,095	1,853,341

The population of Darke County increased rapidly from 1820 to 1880 but has remained relatively constant since then, as shown in the Census reports below:

1820 - 3,717	1870 - 32,278	1920 - 42,911
1830 - 6,203	1880 - 40,496	1930 - 38,009
1840 - 13,282	1890 - 42,961	1940 - 38,831
1850 - 20,276	1900 - 42,532	1950 - 41,799
1860 - 26,009	1910 - 42,933	

common people could hardly make a living there. Someday America would become like the old country, and this greatly disturbed him. When my father was trying to decide whether to buy the 80 acre farm in Richland township, in 1919 when land values were sky high, he consulted Grandpa who advised him to buy the farm. "The country is filling up", he said "People will always have to eat. Land will never go down". Grandpa, together with Aunt Stella and Uncle Ray, loaned my father quite a few thousand dollars to buy that farm where we moved in March, 1920. Within two years, land values had collapsed to a point where my father's farm was worth only one-half of what he had paid for it. Although Grandpa had lived through many depressions - "hard times", as they were then called - he never really understood economic cycles. He felt that in the long run land would become more valuable hence, buy more land.

Grandpa was a strong believer in the virtue of hard work. But he did not believe, as did so many ambitious farmers in those days, in work to the exclusion of all else. Many farmers used to drive themselves and their children almost to death to make money and accumulate property. Grandpa believed in thrift, as did all of the Brethren. He wanted his children to be industrious, he hated laziness, but he used to say "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". When giving talks at the country schools, one of his favorite remarks was "There is hope for a mischievous boy but none for a lazy boy". He understood how boys working together would dally at their chores and he would say then, with an amused grin: "A boy is a boy. Two boys are half a boy. And three boys are no boys at all".

He himself was a fast worker, with great endurance. But when the dinner bell rang at noon, he left the field promptly for the house to have his dinner, and a rest afterwards, either on the cot or in a hammock hung in one corner of the summer porch. There he would sleep, or read his favorite magazine The Saturday Evening Post and various farm papers. Itinerant book agents found him an easy mark for their sales talks according to his son Ray. He was a strong believer in keeping up with current events in the field of his interest. The family used to say "Pa is well posted. He knows what he's talking about".

The Bigler family had early supper, perhaps before sundown. After supper, Grandpa would rest, read, or go fishing. Other ambitious farmers used to hurry through their dinner, and have their supper long after dark, in order to get more work done. This type of fanatical, monotonous work had little appeal for Grandpa.

### Later Years

My recollections of Grandpa Bigler stem from the time when he was 65 until he passed away at the age of 83 - a period that might be called Indian summer in the life of a farmer. I was then under 22. My regret is that I was not older, so that I might have learned more about his early life and the times in which he lived.

In this period, he was relatively prosperous. His 160 acres of good farm land, together with its fine white house and the big bank barn, were paid for and he was free of debt. The farm was well equipped with stock and tools. He

was surrounded by a family of children and grandchildren who liked to visit the old home place.

Almost every Sunday, some of his children, with their families, would "go home" sometimes to pick fruit and berries for their own use and sometimes simply to visit. The custom was to have an enormous Sunday dinner. While the women were cooking in the kitchen, the men would walk about the farm discussing crop prospects and prices. In fact they hardly talked about anything else but crops and prices. They would exchange bits of news that each had picked up from his neighbors or from trips to the grain elevator, i.e., how Ike Miller got so much per bushel for his wheat, how the price of hogs was going down according to the man at the stockyard, how it might be better to sell hogs now before the price fell lower, or maybe how it might be better to "hold hogs" until prices went up. Most of the farmers operated on a basis of hunch and rumor, without much knowledge of general market conditions throughout the country. Grandpa tried to learn as much as he could about the general market by reading the farm magazines regularly. They had long discussions about the best time to plant corn, some arguing for early planting despite the possible rotting of the seed from wet weather and others arguing for late planting despite the possibly dry spells that would dry up or delay the sprouting kernels. There were usually tales about some farmer who was always lagged behind in planting, harvesting and everything else; and the concensus would be "I don't see how old Lew gets along". Inspection of crops was a favorite pastime. Many a time I have seen my grandfather, or my father, after having worked in the fields all week, walk to the field on Sunday afternoon to see how the crops were getting along.

While the women were cooking dinner and the men talking about crops, Chalmer and I and our cousins would play, but every once-in-a-while we would peer into the kitchen to see how the cooking was progressing. We would become almost frantic from the smell of fried chicken wafted through the doors, and would beg our mothers to hurry up with the dinner, or at least to give us a chicken liver to tide us over the crisis. Aunt Stella, always with a kind heart, would take pity on us and give us something to eat. Uncle Ray would teach me how to ride his bicycle, and eventually he gave me his bicycle which made me one of the proudest boys in the neighborhood.

Grandpa always sat at the head of the table, a patriarch surrounded by his sons, daughters and grandchildren. A tall coffee cup would be beside him, this being a special cup adapted to his beard. I can see him sitting there, small of stature but wiry and alert, with his keen blue eyes - all the Biglers I ever knew had blue eyes - and a white beard, dressed in overalls if on a week day or his Sunday suit if on Sunday, usually engaged in interesting discussion. I cannot ever remember hearing him tell a joke but he used to tell many interesting stories. After Sunday dinner, he would clear away the dishes in front of him and talk about history. His children were not much interested in history, but they struggled to listen attentively because they did not like to appear disrespectful. I myself enjoyed his talks very much. One favorite topic on such occasions was Napoleon's campaigns, particularly a tale about the time when Napoleon

was caught between two enemy armies, Austrian I believe, that were sure they had trapped him. Napoleon moved with blitzkrieg speed against one army, crushed it and then turned in reverse against the other to wipe it out. This strategy appealed to him.

Grandma Ida Seifert contracted tuberculosis in 1917. A few hours before she died, knowing the end was near, she called Grandpa to her bedside, clasped her hands around his neck and whispered: "Let me take one more look at the face I love". It was a time of grief for all of us when she passed away Nov. 2, 1917. The funeral services, which I attended with my parents, were at Oakland Church and she was buried on the Bigler lot at the Versailles Cemetery.

Grandpa continued to live on the farm with Aunt Stella and Uncle Ray. They often visited us and his other children. He continued to work hard, and to keep up his interest in things, until his final illness. When I was in Wittenberg College, he would inquire of my mother from time to time about my studies. I last saw him in September, 1927 before I left for Yale. Later that year my mother wrote me "I was telling Grandpa about when you passed in international law and he seemed so pleased". On December 20, 1927 he sent me his last Christmas card at Yale, with no message but signed in his shaky handwriting "Grandpa Bigler",

On Christmas Day of 1927 he became ill (I do not know the nature of his illness) and soon after partially delirious. My mother wrote me then "I asked him last Friday if there was anything we could do for him. He said not one thing; after a while he asked if we had asked for sacrament for him and for prayers and that seemed to be the last he has known ... I've cried so much I don't think there are any more tears left and the others feel as badly as I do". After he passed away, she wrote me again: "You can't imagine the vacant place Grandpa's going has made there. Sometimes I think it can't be possible his life is ended. He enjoyed life so thoroughly until he got sick. He wanted to get out of bed and go home, he said, and when he left us he just went to sleep and went away".

And so, Cyrus Bigler was gathered unto his fathers on January 23, 1928, aged 83 years, 5 mos. and 10 days.

The funeral services were held at Oakland Church where his five sons, Charley, Earl, Jake, Clyde and Ray, and my brother Chalmer, served as pallbearers. His resting place is the Bigler lot at Versailles cemetery. (See Appendix for obituary and records on settlement of his estate)

The pattern of country life that Cyrus Bigler knew, and that was familiar to many generations of Biglers before him, is no more. That pattern was transformed, within my lifetime, by the automobile, tractor, radio, movie and television. We are living now in a new age where science has changed not only the material basis of our existence, but also our social life, and perhaps our spiritual outlook as well. Rocket satellites are now darting through the wide blue yonder where once we thought God and the angels dwelt.

Farming now is a mechanized business, no longer a way of life. For social and intellectual diversion we depend not upon the country school debating society, spelling bees, church "protracted meetings", and fishing at Stillwater but upon television, quiz contests and high speed automobiles.

Our intellectual horizons may be broader today - certainly we have access to more news through newspapers, radios and television; we have better health conditions. We move faster; we accomplish more with less work.

But whether or not ours is a more satisfying life, I do not know. Tensions are greater. Simple faith has given way to perplexing doubt. One wonders whether man's scientific genius has given the human race the means to exterminate itself and if so, where does this fit in with the idea of an eternally just God? There is lost, too, the intimate neighborhood life and the close human relationships associated with rural life in the days of my grandfather. Having become so dependent upon mechanization, we seem to have lost something of the capacity to draw upon our internal spiritual resources to give meaning to life.

One might ask then "Against this background of contemporary mechanized civilization, what was the significance of the life of Cyrus Bigler and of the Bigler traditions that he represented?" My reply would be: "During his full span of 83 years, he sensed something of the inner meaning of ~~his~~ life, something of a power beyond himself, that was reflected through his day to day relation with his family and neighbors. He tried to fulfill these deeper responsibilities as he understood them. He had faith in his fellowmen, abiding faith in life. Without these spiritual values, mankind is lost".





Appendix I

CHILDREN OF MARK (AND CATHERINE) BIGLER II  
Botetourt Co., Va.

(Mary, Jacob, Mark III, Catharine, Elizabeth, Susannah)

A 1. MARY

b. March 14, 1780. m. John Sessler, Jan. 28, 1806 (name sometimes spelled Sesler or Cisler). She d. March 2, 1865, age 69. Her descendants were Methodists and some still live in the vicinity of Botetourt Co. Note in Penn. Historical Society, Vol. 26, 1902, p. 288 by Mary Hoss, 2106 West End Av., Nashville, Tenn. stated Mark Bigler II was born in 1747 and died April 14, 1826; that he married Catharine Lease b. 1763 and d. Jan. 4, 1832; that their daughter Mary was b. March 14, 1780, m. John Sessler who was b. 1781 and d. Dec. 8, 1850; that she d. March 2, 1865; and that the family had moved from Penn. to Va.

Mr. Lawrence Mark Broadhead, Nephi, Utah (descendant of Jacob Bigler of W. Va.) saw some documents at Penn. Historical Society (exact source not identified) some years ago which stated that Mark II was born in Maryland in 1747, that he married Catherine Lease, daughter of Jacob Lease or Leonard of Penn.; and that they had the following children:

Jacob b. about 1778 [this date not correct]  
Mary b. 1780 d. March 2, 1865 m. John Sessler; Catharine m. Moomaw; Elizabeth m. Jesse Lavender June 14, 1810; Mark III; Susannah, single.

B 1. John B. Sessler buried Feb. 4, 1891. m. Elizabeth John b. Jan. 17, 1824 d. Feb. 3, 1893. He lived with his daughter Mattie Sessler Watkins. Children of John B. and Elizabeth John Sessler:

C 1. Annie. m. James Gardner. Lived at Haymakertown. No children.

C 2. Susan. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Slusser. They lived in Fincastle. Their two daughters were Carrie and Mary.

C 3. Mattie. m. James B. Watkins. They lived on the home farm of Mark Bigler II in a large brick house which they built and which is now owned by Mr. H. B. Freeman who also owns the log house of Mark Bigler II. Their children:

D 1. Zenella. m. C. Anderson Firebaugh. Both deceased. Their children:

E 1. Mary Martha. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Sowers. No children.

E 2. Ralph W. m. Ruth Brogan and have several children. He is a farmer living on RFD 2, Troutville, Va.

E 3. Calvin. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Bowman. One child.

E 4. Carl. married. No information on family.

E 5. Mont. m. Hortense Manges and has several children.

E 6. Evelyn. m. and lives in Buffalo, N. Y.

D 2. Pearl. m. L. W. Firebaugh, a brother of C. Anderson Firebaugh. Both deceased. No living children.

- D 3. Leo., m. Carlie Rhodes. Both deceased. Their children: Malcolm and Lillian, both married and living in Roanoke, Va. Lillian married Lewis Amos and it is she who has  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of old papers of the Beagler family, now stored in trunks in the house in the country where her parents lived.
- D 4. Sessler. Not married. Lives at home left by L.W. Firebaugh.
- D 5. Gardner Watkins. Unmarried. Lives with brother Sessler.
- D 6. Ocelia. m. and lives in California.
- D 7. Ruth. m. Charles Cross, and lives in Penn. Has one daughter.
- C 4. Emma. m. Fred Pratt and lives in New York
- C 5. Mark. m. Mollie Manges. Their children Kenneth and Otis now living in Florida and Frank who succumbed to the flue epidemic in World War I.

A 2. JACOB

b. Jan. 4, 1784 and d. March 27, 1849, age 65 (according to notations in a Bible bought by Jacob Bigler of Fincastle on March 31, 1823 which is now in possession of the Sessler descendants). His will, dated March 25, 1849, left all his property to his sister Susannah, as he never married. He is probably buried in Haymakertown Cemetery near his father's farm where his parents and sister Susannah are buried.

A 3. MARK III

- b. 1788 Haymakertown, Botetourt Co., Va. d. Dec. 12 (or 21) 1840. m. Mary Peters (b. Oct. 1, 1808 Botetourt Co., to Abraham and Anne Critz Peters and d. Aug. 16, 1898), July 21, 1827, according to Botetourt Co. records. Both buried Mt. Union Presbyterian Cemetery across the road from his farm. Their children, all born on home farm at Haymakertown:
- B 1. Lucinda. b. about 1827\* m. Marion Painter. Buried Mt. Union Presbyterian Cem. No children.
  - B 2. Eliza Ann. b. about 1829\* m. Gray. No children
  - B 3. Charlotte. b. about 1831\* m. Haden Moor Dec. 8, 1853 in Fincastle, Va. (Botetourt Co. records). Later moved to Auburn, Sagamon Co., Illinois and later Nebraska. They had 4 children: Frederick, Henry, Cecilia and Mary.
  - B 4. George. b. Nov. 22, 1833.\* m. Virginia E. Wineman April 21, 1857 of Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill. who d. Feb. 9, 1899. Emma Bigler Merrey says "George went to Illinois before the Civil War". Children of George and Virginia Wineman, all born Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill.:
  - C 1. Edward Allie. b. about 1866.\* m. Evelyn Workman (b. about 1868) Feb. 5, 1895. Most of information on Edward Allie and Cyrus Wineman Bigler came from unnamed newspaper clipping, probably from a paper in Auburn, Ill., about Feb. 5, 1945, describing golden wedding of the two brothers who married two sisters. Children of Edward and Evelyn Bigler, born at Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill.:

- D 1. Hayward Landon. Living in Cortez, Colorado in 1945, where he had built up large wholesale gas and oil business in southwest Colorado and north-west New Mexico, known as Mexirado Distributing Co. He and his wife Eloise had (in 1945) daughter Dorothy Ann age 12, son Edward age 10 and Roger Allen 7.
- D 2. Adella. m. Charles E. Hartford, chemical engineer and superintendent of paper mill in Savannah, Georgia (in 1945). Their daughter Evelyn age 15 and son Charles age 12, in 1945.
- C 2. Cyrus Wineman. b. Jan. 25 or June 25, 1868.\* m. Minnie Workman of Auburn, Sagamon Co. Ill., Feb. 5, 1895 (she d. Mar. 10, 1938). Their children, all born in Auburn, Ill.:
- D 1. Mary Elvira. b. Aug. 21, 1896.\*
- D 2. Paul W. b. Feb. 9, 1899.\* He and his wife Genevieve lived in Chicago where he was teaching in Foreman High School in 1938 and in Taft High School in 1945. Their daughter Barbara, a sophomore in Wesleyan U. at Bloomington and Margery, a freshman at U. of Wisconsin (in 1945).
- D 3. Mildred. b. Aug. 31, 1901.\* m. Duncan Barbee and lived in Auburn, Ill. as of 1945.
- D 4. Alice. b. June 23, 1906.\* m. Elmer Lull and lived in Auburn, Ill.
- D 5. Virginia. b. June 23, 1906.\* m. Earl Nash and lived in Auburn, Ill.
- C 3. George Rayburn. b. 1870.\* Lived in Chicago.
- C 4. Son. d. in infancy.
- C 5. Son. d. in infancy.
- B 5. Catherine. b. March 5, 1836 in Botetourt Co. m. J. B. Bradshaw of Florida. Had one son Wilbur. They lived for some time in Tenn. (with Mrs. Elsie Patterson, Surgionville, Tenn.) where Catherine died March 5, 1916. Was invalid for 40 years.
- B 6. Susan. b. about 1837\* in Botetourt Co. m. Mark Vandegrift of Botetourt Co., June 25, 1874 and lived in Auburn, Ill. She died May 1887 and was buried Mt. Union Cemetery, Botetourt Co. Their children:
- C 1. Alice. m. John Fraley and had a son Marcus who lives in Washington State and a married daughter Alda who lives in Virden, Ill.
- C 2. Mary. Not married.
- B 7. Mark IV. b. May 18, 1841 Botetourt Co. on his father's farm in the house where he died April 6, 1905. Served  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years with Confederate Army during Civil War. m. Ann Eliza Smith (b. June 10, 1847 d. Jan. 16, 1928) June 25, 1874. Their children, all born on home farm of Mark IV and III in Botetourt Co.:
- C 1. Lelia Nora. b. April 19, 1875. m. Samuel K. Dodds and lived in Auburn, Ill. until his death. They had one son, Samuel K. Dodds, Jr., who is an accountant specializing in income tax work and is Justice of Peace. He and his mother now (Aug. 1959) live at 7 South West 8th Ave., Milton, Freewater, Oregon.

- C 2. Ida. b. Feb. 16, 1877. d. in infancy and buried Mt. Union Cemetery.
- C 3. Frank Ernest. b. Oct. 28, 1878. d. July 28, 1938 and buried Mt. Union Cem. Lived on father's farm and was undertaker. Never married.
- C 4. Harman Newberry. b. July 5, 1884. d. Oct. 19, 1957. Rural mail carrier in Troutville, Va. m. Margaret Gertrude Newman, June 23, 1915. Their children:
- D 1. Harman Paul. b. Sept. 8, 1916, Mt. Union, Troutville. B. S. degree in Civil Engineering, June 1939 at Virginia Military Institute (third from top in class of 150). m. Roberta Adaline Kinzie, Oct. 7, 1953 and they have 2 daughters, Elizabeth Anne and Barbara Jean. Served with U.S. Army May 1941 to Jan. 1946: as Lieutenant and later Captain 99th and 604th Field Artillery Battalion; as Artillery Adviser to 53rd Chinese Army; as Intelligence Officer 14th Air Force and spent 6 months behind Japanese lines near Hankow, China, 1944-45. Again served in Korea Aug. 1952-Aug. '53, with rank of Major, as Battalion Executive Officer 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Since 1953, with Architectural and Engineering firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern of Roanoke, Va., where he is now employed as chief structural engineer. Present home address, 2740 Wilshire Ave., S.W., Roanoke, Va.
- D 2. Margaret Ruth. m. and divorced Samuel Merritt Kephart. Has two children, Samuel Newton and Carolyn Jo. Graduate in library science of William and Mary College. Her artistic works and exhibits are described in The Roanoke Times, Sept. 10, 1959 which says her "yen for painting goes beyond the hobby stage. Her work was part of a one-man exhibit last fall at the Art Center and each Wednesday finds her attending a sketching class along with other aspiring artists".
- C 5. Emma E. b. April 16, 1886. Attended normal school and business college, taught grade school and worked for 8 years with Continental Can Co. m. George E. Merrey July 16, 1921, a plant manager of that company who operated company plants in Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., and at Roanoke and Bedford, Va. After retirement in 1944 they left their home in Florida to retire on the farm of her father (Mark IV) where they are living today. No children.
- C 6. Ruth. b. Nov. 24, 1887. Registered nurse now living at 803 Graydon Ave., Norfolk, Va. Not married. She says she worked with Dr. Fitchett almost 36 years and never missed a day from illness, except when she fractured her hip in 1950 and was off duty for 6 months. She spends  $6\frac{1}{2}$  days per week in Dr. Fitchett's office. Many years ago she nursed Mr. Oscar B. Ryder and wife Nanine and Nanine's sisters. Ruth says she will "never forget what nice patients they were".

C 7. Irene. b. July 27, 1889. Not married. She lived most of her life on the home place where she was born and was still living there in March 1960.

A 4. CATHARINE

m. Philip Moomaw, Dec. 14, 1805 (Botetourt Co. records).

A 5. ELIZABETH

m. Jesse Lavender, June 12, 1810 (Botetourt Co. records). She and her husband "went west and were never heard from" by the Virginia Biglers.

A 6. SUSANNAH

Not married. According to a notation in Jacob's Bible, a Susan Bigler died July 25, 1871. It is assumed this referred to his sister Susan. The Carlie Rhodes Watkins letter of 1948 to Irene Bigler noted that Susan Bigler bought a \$300 bond on May 15, 1863 during the Civil War.

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Source: Letters from Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Va., to Norman Burns, dated April 28, Aug. 17, Sept. 16, 1959 and March 8, 1960, referring to family records of the descendants of Mark Bigler II (including his son Jacob's Bible now in possession of the Sessler family) and Court House records of Fincastle, Va. Some dates, where indicated with star, were obtained from the Bigler Family Record, compiled by Utah descendants of Jacob Bigler of W. Va., referred to in Chapter III.

Appendix II

CHILDREN OF JACOB AND HANNAH BOOKER (BOOHER OR BOOTHER) BIGLER  
Harrison Co., W. Va. (1)

(Sarah, Hannah, Mark, Ruth, Nancy Ann, Jacob, Henry, Bathsheba, Maria, Rebecca)

A 1. SARAH

b. April or May 30, 1780, Somerset Co., Penn. d. July 7, 1880 and buried at Saltwell, W. Va. No marker on grave.

m. (1st) John Righter of Harrison Co., April 26, 1795. He was b. about 1773. Their children:

B 1. Mariah. b. April 1, 1796 in Harrison Co. and d. July 18, 1893.

B 2. Jacob. b. about 1798.

B 3. John. b. about 1800.

B 4. Abraham. b. Jan. 27, 1802.

B 5. Peter. b. Aug. 24, 1804 and d. Dec. 18, 1893. m. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_.

B 6. Elizabeth.

m. (2nd) Cyrus Ross, of Harrison Co., Oct. 20, 1822. Not known whether there were any children of this marriage.

A 2. HANNAH

b. Jan. 30, 1783, Harrison Co. d. either Sept. 23, 1834 or Feb. 23, 1839.

m. James McCauly (or McCally or McCowly) April 18, 1799. He was b. about 1774. Their children:

B 1. Jacob. b. Oct. 22, 1809.

B 2. Rebecca. b. about 1811. m. Benjamin Dickey.

A 3. MARK

b. May 19, 1785, near Shinston in Harrison Co., W. Va. m. Susannah Ogden, Nov. 5, 1805. She was b. Oct. 11, 1785 near Port Tobacco, Charles Co., Md. and d. of consumption Mar. 14, 1847 (according to Brough p. 34) in Winter Quarters (now Omaha) Nebraska Territory where her grave is marked today. Mark was baptized in the Mormon Church, Sept. 23, 1834, in Harrison Co., the first Bigler to join that faith. He died at Quincy, Ill., Sept. 23, 1839. Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler had 9 children:

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(1) Biodata almost entirely from The Bigler Family Record (unpublished) arranged and compiled by: Louis B. and Hazel A. Bigler of 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah; Horace J. Bigler of 2975 Melbourne St., Salt Lake City; Franklin Keith Brough of 4233 Mars Way, Salt Lake City; Virginia Grover Carlston of 1944 Herbert Ave., Salt Lake City. This record was begun in 1876.

Names and birthdates of 10 children of Jacob and Hannah Bigler came from Henry W. Bigler Journal now in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Bigler. Birthdates differ slightly from those given by Walter M. Elliott (great grandson of Bathsheba Bigler) of 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va. in his account of Sept. 1, 1933 that was loaned to me by Perry Bigler, RD1, Marianna, Penn. in Nov. 1958.

- B 1. Agnes Matilda. b. Feb. 6, 1807 near Shinston, Harrison Co. and d. Mar. 11, 1877. John Snyder Martin (d. April 16, 1882), March 25, 1824. Their children:  
C 1. Jesse B. b. April 11, 1825. d. Oct. 17, 1908.  
C 2. Mary Jane. b. about 1827.  
C 3-11. Simon B.; Anestastie; Helen Marr; Harrison; Edgar; John L., Jr.; Melissa; Isabel; Isadore.
- B 2. Hannah. b. May 19, 1809 near Shinston and d. June 28, 1809.
- B 3. Nancy. b. Aug. 6, 1810 near Shinston and d. July 5, 1886.  
m. Josiah Walcott Fleming, June 5, 1828. Their children:  
C 1. Sarah Ann.  
C 2. Thadeus Ellis  
C 3. Mary Ellen
- B 4. Jacob G. b. April 4, 1813, Harrison Co., W. Va. Baptized in Mormon faith, June 10, 1838, Far West, Mo. Arrived in Nephi, Utah, Oct. 18, 1852 and d. there Feb. 23, 1907.  
m. (1st) Mary Ann Boggess of Harrison Co., April 19, 1841 (she was baptized a Mormon in 1836. She died of "fever", Oct. 29, 1842 at Nauvoo, Ill.). Their children:  
C 1. Alonzo Harrison. b. April 14, 1842 at Nauvoo and d. same day.  
m. (2nd) Amy Lorette Chase, June 18, 1844, Nauvoo (b. Nov. 7, 1822, Lincoln, Vt., daughter of Quaker family, Abner Chase and Amy Scott. d. June 8, 1907, Nephi). Their children:  
C 1. David George. b. Feb. 8, 1846, Nauvoo and d. Aug. 16, 1882 in railroad accident at Nephi, Utah. m. Elizabeth Betts, Oct. 16, 1867 (b. July 25, 1845 Mansfield Eng. and d. Dec. 11, 1929, Nephi). Their children:  
D 1. Alice Matilda. b. Nov. 8, 1869, Nephi. m. Alphas Miller Sept. 30, 1887. d. Dec. 4, 1943.  
D 2. David George. b. Mar. 10, 1871, Nephi. m. Anna Ottensen Dec. 28, 1892.  
D 3. Jacob G. b. Dec. 5, 1873, Nephi. m. Elizabeth Williams.  
D 4. Louis Burtran Sr. b. Dec. 4, 1875, Nephi and d. Jan. 24, 1952, Provo. m. Harriet Charlotte Guymon (b. Dec. 15, 1876). Sheep raiser and farmer. Their children, all born in Fountain Green, Utah, except Edgar Ray b. Gunnison, Utah:  
E 1. Louis Burtran Jr. b. Jan. 17, 1899. m. Hazel Anderson (b. July 17, 1900 at Manti, Utah, grand niece of Azariah Smith who was with Henry W. Bigler when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848). Dec. 20, 1922 at Manti Temple, Utah. Their children:  
F 1. Darlene. b. Oct. 19, 1923. m. Wallace L. Williams.  
F 2. Anna Gae, b. April 28, 1924. m. Robert Melroy.  
F 3. David Louis. b. May 9, 1927. m. Barbara Daynes.

- F 4. Richard A. b. March 27, 1930. m. Arlene Fernley.
- F 5. Louis Burtran. b. April 3, 1935. m. Elizabeth Hofer.
- E 2. Oril David. b. June 18, 1902. Master mechanic at Salt Lake City. m. Eliza Harvey Aug. 11, 1936.
- E 3. Vardus James. b. April 10, 1905. Electrical engineer at Hill Air Force base, Ogden, Utah.
- E 4. Murrel. b. March 26, 1908. Owns large motel, Ogden, Utah. Past president and v. president of National Motel Association. m. Norma Anderson (1st) and Frieda Braithwaite (2nd).
- E 5. Mort Lynn. b. Feb. 17, 1911. Lives on farm 50 mi. w. of West Jordan. m. Juliette Nuttal.
- E 6. Edgar Ray. b. Nov. 30, 1918. Mechanic with Fruehauf Trailer Co., living in Salt Lake City. m. Rita Olsen.
- D 5. Mamie. b. Dec. 5, 1880, Nephi. m. Joseph Edward Ostler. d. July, 1958.
- C 2. Jacob G., Jr. b. Nov. 11, 1848, Kaneshville, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa. d. Jan. 20, 1914. m. Elizabeth Harley, May 23, 1868. (b. May 16, 1848. d. May 20, 1908 at Central, Grand Co., Arizona). Their children:
- D 1. Jacob Edwin. b. June 16, 1869, Nephi. d. Feb. 14, 1871.
- D 2. Joseph. b. Aug. 18, 1871, Nephi. d. Aug. 27, 1952. m. Ida Ella Coombs.
- D 3. William. b. June 15, 1873, Nephi. d. Aug. 15, 1928. m. Eliza Minerva Porter, Mar. 12, 1902.
- D 4. Thurza May. b. Dec. 4, 1875, Nephi. d. Feb. 1918. m. John Bennett Hicks, April 11, 1906.
- D 5. George Albert. b. Aug. 26, 1878, Nephi. m. Harriet Emily Elmer.
- D 6. Clarence Mendel. b. June 3, 1881, Nephi. m. Edith Vilate Porter June 5, 1907.
- D 7. Elizabeth Pearl. b. July 31, 1885 at Central, Grand Co., Arizona. d. June 19, 1886.
- D 8. Mildred. b. April 19, 1888, Central, Arizona. m. Elmer Elon Whitmer, Aug. 29, 1910.
- C 3. Mary Ann. b. July 24, 1850, Kaneshville, Iowa and d. May 31, 1943. m. Ebenezer Tanner, Sept. 19, 1868. Their children:
- D 1. Ebenezer, b. Aug. 8, 1869.
- D 2. Jacob Thomas. b. May 6, 1871.
- D 3. Mark Alberti. b. April 23, 1873. d. Sept. 15, 1877.
- D 4. Mary Ann. b. May 11, 1875. d. Feb. 9, 1877.
- D 5. James Edwin. b. Jan. 18, 1878.
- D 6. David Alma. b. Nov. 6, 1880.
- D 7. Amy Lorette. b. Dec. 6, 1882. d. Aug. 1, 1883.
- D 8. Joseph Hyrum. b. Oct. 24, 1884. d. Nov. 2, 1884
- D 9. Abner. b. May 11, 1886.



- D 10. Emma LaVerne. b. Sept. 24, 1889.
- D 11. Flora. b. Sept. 4, 1892.
- C 4. Amy Lorette. b. July 17, 1852 on Platte R. in Nebraska Territory when family was moving from Kaneshville, Iowa to Nephi, Utah. d. Nov. 29, 1891. m. James Harvey Mangum, Feb. 21, 1870. Their children:
- D 1. Harvey. b. about 1868, Nephi.
- D 2. Lester. b. Nov. 27, 1870. m. Jennie Knight.
- D 3. Mark LeRoy. infant.
- D 4. Ernest. infant.
- D 5. Erwin, infant.
- D 6. Effie Maud. b. May 19, 1881. m. Alvin Jones Jackson.
- D 7. Minnie Lorette. b. June 23, 1884. m. Charles Henry Miles, Aug. 5, 1905.
- D 8. Clark Chase. b. Nov. 16, 1887. m. Mary Kerr.
- D 9. Amy Ann. b. Dec. 10, 1889. m. Clarence Richard Jones.
- C 5. Abner Chase. b. Aug. 6, 1854, Nephi, and d. April 23, 1930, Nephi. m. Elizabeth Anderson Tranter, Jan. 10, 1876. Their children:
- D 1. Amy Elizabeth. b. Jan. 4, 1877, Nephi. d. Oct. 15, 1957. m. Roscoe Everett Grover, Oct. 10, 1900.
- D 2. Sarah Ellen. b. May 26, 1879, Nephi. d. April 30, 1954. m. Alonzo Ingram, Dec. 11, 1901.
- D 3. Goldie Itha. b. June 20, 1881, Nephi. m. Thomas Henry Parkes, June 20, 1907.
- D 4. Abner Tranter. b. Oct. 10, 1883, Nephi. d. May 10, 1933. m. Ruby McPherson, Nov. 9, 1909.
- D 5. Lillian Belle. b. June 3, 1887, Nephi. m. Elijah C. Allen, Sept. 12, 1906.
- D 6. Daniel Erin. b. Nov. 9, 1889, Nephi. m. Jennie Boley, June 26, 1912.
- D 7. Vera Bathsheba. b. Nov. 20, 1891, Nephi. m. Wilford Allen, Sept. 16, 1914.
- D 8. Nina Alice. b. Oct. 26, 1893, Nephi. d. Jan. 9, 1915. Unmarried.
- D 9. Clarence Gean. b. May 27, 1896, Nephi. d. July 16, 1908.
- D 10. Florence Dean. b. May 27, 1896, Nephi. m. Spencer Burton, June 9, 1915.
- D 11. Blanche LaPreal. b. March 17, 1901, Nephi. m. Franklin H. Brough. Their son Franklin Keith Brough, born in 1923, was the author of Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler.
- D 12. Clarissa Leila. b. July 13, 1903. m. Glen Sykes Nov. 9, 1921.
- C 6. Mark. b. Nov. 15, 1856, Nephi and d. April 8, 1945 at Mapleton, Utah. m. Madaline Pyper, Dec. 18, 1879. Their children, all born at Nephi, Utah:

- D 1. Madaline Elva. b. Dec. 14, 1880, d. Oct. 7, 1950. m. Langley A. Bailey Nov. 15, 1900.
- D 2. Myrtle. b. Oct. 16, 1882, d. April 27, 1913. m. Fred McEveney, Dec. 6, 1909.
- D 3. Mary Ethel. b. June 8, 1884, d. Oct. 6, 1944. m. Robert Broadhead Mar. 31, 1909. Their children, all born in Nephi: Elmer, Lawrence Mark, Alice, Jean. Lawrence Mark, now living in Nephi, has done much historical research on the history of the Utah Biglers.
- D 4. Leala Jeanette. b. Oct. 10, 1886. m. Alfred Charles Thorn, Sept. 29, 1921.
- D 5. Kate Illa. b. June 5, 1891. d. May 14, 1892.
- D 6. Mark Lisle. b. May 19, 1893. m. Artimisha Nielsen Aug. 4, 1919. Lived at Nephi and St. George, Utah. Their children: Roene, Carolyn and Ruth. Mark Lisle and his daughter Roene are said to be fine singers.
- D 7. Norma Inez. b. July 8, 1900. m. Alonzo E. Cox, Jan. 3, 1923.
- C 7. Charles Edwin. b. Dec. 7, 1858, Nephi, and d. Sept. 30, 1935. m. Mary T. Stephens, Sept. 16, 1880. Their children:
  - D 1. Amy Lorette, b. Aug. 2, 1881, Fruitland, New Mexico. d. Mar. 1889.
  - D 2. Mary Abbie. b. Aug. 10, 1883, Juab Co., Utah, d. July 13, 1922.
  - D 3. Charles Edwin. b. Feb. 27, 1886 at Fruitland, New Mexico. d. Mar. 14, 1918. m. Anna Walters. Their children: Maurine, Lyla, Allen, Elizabeth.
  - D 4. Susanna. b. Dec. 23, 1887, Fruitland.
  - D 5. David. b. Jan. 29, 1890, Fruitland, New Mexico. m. Pearl Butterfield. Their children: David, Paul, Max.
  - D 6. Stella. b. Oct. 15, 1892, Maricopa Co., Arizona.
  - D 7. Ordell. b. Aug. 28, 1895, Nephi. m. Spencer Miller. Their children: Lorin, Douglas.
  - D 8. Edith. b. Nov. 20, 1897, Nephi. m. James Herman Vickers. Their children: Merrill, Darin, Mercy, Ann.
- C 8. Susannah. b. Nov. 22, 1860, Nephi. m. John Robert Goldsbrough May 24, 1883. Their children:
  - D 1. John Robert. b. Feb. 15, 1884, Nephi.
  - D 2. Cecil. b. Dec. 13, 1886, Nephi.
  - D 3. Rex. b. March 22, 1889, Nephi.
  - D 4. Foncet. b. June 8, 1894, Nephi.
  - D 5. Elmo Floyd. b. April 20, 1899, Nephi.
  - D 6. Vilnah Avone. b. April 18, 1904, Nephi.
  - D 7. Frank Spencer. b. Feb. 20, 1908, Nephi.
- C 9. James. b. March 24, 1866, Nephi. m. Maud Ermina Witbeck or Whitbeck Oct. 27, 1887. d. Sept. 1, 1947, Salt Lake City. Their children:

- D 1. James Glen. b. Jan. 7, 1889, Nephi. m. Lunetia Lowder.
- D 2. Edna Maude. b. April 20, 1890, Nephi. m. Alma Nils Johnson.
- D 3. Alta. b. Aug. 30, 1891, Nephi. m. Thomas William Haycock.
- D 4. Kenneth Witbeck. b. July 28, 1892, Nephi. m. Violet Hopkins.
- D 5. Chase. b. Milford, Utah. d. infancy.
- D 6. Venice Emma. b. Dec. 22, 1896, Nephi. m. Alma Lyle Turner.
- D 7. Alice Lorette, b. Sept. 11, 1899, Nephi. m. Frank Carlyle Lyman.
- D 8. Alma John. b. April 1, 1903, Nephi. m. Beth Had-denham.
- D 9. Phyllis. b. Jan. 16, 1908, Nephi. m. David Owen Thygerson.
- C10. Alice. b. Nephi. m. William Garrett Oct. 8, 1896. d. Nov. 29, 1940. No children.  
m. (3rd) Armelia Caroline Mangum, Feb. 12, 1852, Kaneshville, Iowa (b. March 21, 1834, Pickens Co., Alabama, daughter of Wil-liam and Sarah Adair. d. Dec. 15, 1916, Garland, Box Elder Co., Utah). Their children:
  - C 1. Don Mangum. b. Jan. 16, 1854, Nephi and d. Feb. 26, 1905 at American Forks, Utah. m. Henrietta Henriod, Jan. 16, 1880. Elder of Mormon Church, ward teacher at Nephi, farm-er and miner. Their children:
    - D 1. Don Alphonso. b. Oct. 16, 1880.
    - D 2. Leah Domitile. b. Aug. 31, 1882. m. John Robinson.
    - D 3. Mary Henrietta. b. Nov. 5, 1884.
    - D 4. Nettie Beryl. b. Nov. 24, 1887. m. Abraham Bowers.
  - C 2. Sarah M. b. July 17, 1856, Nephi. d. May 3, 1857.
  - C 3. Amy Armelia. b. July 17, 1857, Middle Creek, Utah and d. May 2, 1934 at Tremonton, Utah. m. Napoleon Grover Oct. 14, 1877. Their children:
    - D 1. Arthur Napoleon. b. Jan. 13, 1880, Nephi. m. Estella Valentine.
    - D 2. Eugene. b. Sept. 25, 1882, Nephi. m. Kate Riggs
    - D 3. Mildred Armelia, b. Oct. 24, 188?, Nephi. m. Edward Gleason.
    - D 4. Claude Raymond. b. Sept. 9, 1886, Nephi. m. Refuge Lowe.
    - D 5. Earl. b. Oct. 21, 1888, Nephi. d. infancy.
    - D 6. Hazel Estelle. b. June 28, 1890, Lao, Utah. m. Arthur Pedersen.
    - D 7. Don Edward. b. Dec. 20, 1892, Loa, Utah. d. infancy.
    - D 8. Ralph B. b. June 2, 1894, Farmington. m. Violet Justensen.
    - D 9. Lloyd Freeman. b. June 7, 1897, Farmington. m. Eva Cederlund.
- D10. Bernice. b. March 7, 1900, Farmington. d. infancy.

- C 4. Caroline Eliza. b. June 2, 1861, Nephi. d. Feb. 1889.  
m. Jededeah Grover, Jan. 10, 1884. Their children:  
D 1. Jessie Bigler. b. Sept. 4, 1880, Nephi. m. Naomi Gleason.  
D 2. Melvin. b. Dec. 23, 1885, Nephi. d. infancy.  
D 3. Mattie Estelle. b. Mar. 15, 1888, Nephi. d. infancy.  
D 4. Don Merlin. b. Aug. 24, 1889. m. Jeanette Morris.  
C 5. Lavina. b. Jan. 22, 1865, Nephi, d. Sept. 7, 1865.  
C 6. Zina. b. Nov. 19, 1867, Nephi.  
C 7. Claire. b. Aug. 15, 1869, Nephi. d. Aug. 17, 1871.  
m. (4th) Nancy Ann Keller, Nov. 25, 1855 at Nephi (b. Nov. 9, 1836, Nauvoo, daughter of Alva Keller and Roxey Lucina Elliott. d. Nov. 9, 1900, Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah). Their children:

- C 1. Roxey Lucina. b. Nov. 9, 1856, Nephi, d. Feb. 12, 1899.  
m. Henry Blackburn, June 8, 1874. Their children:  
D 1. Roxey Lucinda. b. Feb. 28, 1875, Nephi. d. July 28, 1933.  
D 2. Thomas Henry. b. Aug. 8, 1877, Brigham City. d. May 11, 1921.  
D 3. Joseph Gerald. b. Feb. 19, 1880, Brigham City. d. Sept. 23, 1894.  
D 4. Claudius Eugene. b. Mar. 5, 1882, Brigham City. d. Oct. 26, 1897.  
D 5. Genevieve Ann. b. Aug. 26, 1884, Brigham City. d. Nov. 13, 1946.  
D 6. Gladys Edna. b. Sept. 1, 1886, Brigham City. d. July 2, 1942.  
D 7. Alva Jephthah. b. Oct. 18, 1888, Brigham City. d. Dec. 11, 1888.  
D 8. Alice Leal. b. Mar. 22, 1895 (?), Brigham City.  
D 9. Geraldine. b. Aug. 20, 1895 (?), Brigham City.  
m. \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson and was living in 1958 at 311 West 4th North, Rexburg, Idaho. She gave this information on descendants of Jacob G. Bigler and Nancy Ann Keller:  
1 child, Roxey Lucinda Bigler. m. Henry Blackburn.  
9 grandchildren  
56 great grandchildren  
217 great great grandchildren  
86 great great great grandchildren  
309 total offspring

- B 5. Jonathan. b. and d. 1815.  
B 6. Maria. b. June 16, 1816 near Shinston, W. Va. and d. 1840. m. John Blackford Israel, June 19, 1832. Their children:  
C 1. Thaddeus Warsaw. b. June 19, 1833. d. infancy.  
C 2. Mary Ellen. b. 1835 d. infancy  
B 7. Sarah. b. Oct. 9, 1819 near Shinston, Harrison Co., W. Va. and d. Oct. 3, 1889. Accompanied brother Jacob G. to Far West, Mo., in 1838.

m. (1st) Caleb Washington Lyons, (b. Sept. 21, 1818 at Griffin Run, Harrison Co. and d. Aug. 12, 1848) Jan. 16, 1840 at Nauvoo, Ill. Their children:

C 1. Oscar Fitzgallen. b. Dec. 25, 1840 at Nauvoo, Ill. m. Maria Louisa Marchant.

C 2. Amanda. b. Sept. 9, 1843 at Nauvoo, Ill.

C 3. Caleb Washington. b. Jan. 9, 1846 at Nauvoo. d. June 6, 1898. m. Sarah Minerva Rice Oct. 12, 1869.

C 4. Sarah. b. Feb. 23, 1849 at Quincy, Adams Co., Ill.

m. (2nd) Thomas E. Taylor, (b. South Wales, UK) Feb. 1, 1852.

Their children:

C 1. Thomas Bigler. b. Mar. 23, 1853 at Salt Lake City. d. 1885.

C 2. Benjamin Albert. b. Mar. 4, 1854 (?) at Salt Lake City. m. Grace Reid Meredith. d. March 11, 1928.

B 8. Bathsheba Wilson. (Wilson was an adopted name in honor of her girl friend). b. May 3, 1822 near Shinston, Harrison Co., W. Va. and d. at Salt Lake City Sept. 10, 1910. Accompanied brother Jacob G. to Far West, Mo., in 1838. m. George Albert Smith (b. June 26, 1817, Potsdam, N. Y.) July 25, 1841 at Nauvoo, Ill., by Elder Don Carlos Smith, brother of Prophet Joseph Smith. George A. Smith became member of Quorum of Twelve Apostles and later counselor of Brigham Young. Left Winter Quarters (Omaha) for Salt Lake City, June 1849. Their children:

C 1. George Albert b. July 7, 1842 at Nauvoo. Killed by Indians near Salt Lake City sometime after 1857.

C 2. Bathsheba. b. Aug. 14, 1844. m. Clarence Merrill Jan. 3, 1861. They had 14 children including:

D 1. Alice Merrill. b. Jan. 2, 1869 at Filmore, Utah. m. George Henry Horne. She died Oct. 7, 1948 at Salt Lake City. She served 2 terms Utah House of Representatives; also established over 30 public school art collections in Utah and organized Utah Art Colony in 1920.

D 2. Irene. b. 1875. m. Stephen L. Richards. Now. (1959) resides at 105 South Temple Street, Salt Lake City.

C 3. John Smith. b. April 1846 at Nauvoo. d. in infancy.

B 9. Melissa Jane. b. March 24, 1825, near Shinston, W. Va. d. Oct. 26, 1899. Accompanied brother Jacob G. to Far West, Mo. in 1838. m. Alfred B. Lambson Nov. 25, 1845. Their children:

C 1. Melissa Jane. m. Albert W. Davis

C 2. Julina. b. June 18, 1849 at Salt Lake City. d. Jan. 10, 1906 or 1936. m. Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of Mormon Church.

C 3. Edna. b. March 3, 1851. d. Feb. 25, 1928. m. Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of Mormon Church.

C 4. Alfred B.

A 4. RUTH

b. April 28, 1788, Harrison Co. and d. Mar. 23, 1830. m. Abel Whiteman, Sept. 3, 1806.

A 5. NANCY (ANN)

b. Nov. 29, 1790, Harrison Co. and d. 1842. m. Henry Whiteman, Sept. 1, 1808. Their children:

B 1. Edward.

B 2. Jonathan. m. Mariah Righter. Their daughter: Rebecca.

A 6. JACOB

b. June 9 or 7, 1793, Harrison Co. April 1838, Jacob and family, including son Henry, left Harrison Co. to join the Mormon settlement at Far West, Mo. From Far West they moved to Quincy, Ill., 1839. Jacob and family (not including Henry) went from Kaneshville, Iowa in the David A. Miller Company, in Sept. 1848, to Utah where Jacob settled at Farmington. He died in Farmington, Utah, Sept. 2, 1859.

m. (1st) Elizabeth Harvey, Harrison Co., May 24, 1814 (b. Jan. 10, 1794, Montgomery Co., Md., daughter of Basil and Polly Harvey. She died of consumption, Nov. 13, 1827, Harrison Co.) Their children:

B 1. Henry William. b. Aug. 28, 1815, Harrison Co., joined Mormon Church July 1837, arrived at Far West, Mo., June, 1838; first arrived at Kaneshville, July 1846 where he joined Mormon Battalion July 1846. Was one of laborers at Capt. Sutter's sawmill in California when gold was first discovered, Jan. 24, 1848. Engaged in missionary work in Hawaiian Islands for 11 years. Settled in St. George, Utah about 1878 where he died Nov. 24, 1900.

m. (1st) Cynthia Jane Whipple, Nov. 18, 1855 (b. June 14, 1835, Jamestown, N. Y. d. Nov. 5, 1874). Their children:

C 1. Elizabeth Jane. b. Oct. 4, 1856, Farmington. m. Henry L. Wickel.

C 2. Charles William. b. July 30, 1859. Farmington.

C 3. Henry Eugene. b. Aug. 27, 1865. Farmington

C 4. Jacob Edwin. b. Aug. 24, 1867. Farmington.

C 5. Emeline Elvira. b. April 23, 1869, Farmington and d. Aug. 5, 1869.

m. (2nd) Eleanor Parthena Emmett, March 6, 1878.

C 1. Maude. b. Jan. 25, 1879, St. George, Utah.

C 2. Eleanor. b. Sept. 21, 1880, St. George. m. John Edmunds Heppler. She lives at 852 East 8th South, Salt Lake City.

C 3. Edna. b. Nov. 9, 1882, St. George, Utah.

C 4. Adelbert. b. Mar. 13, 1887. He has 2 sons still living: Walter, RD 2, Box 588, Provo, Utah; and Adelbert, 450 e 1st so (address not clear).

C 5. Ivy. b. Mar. 13, 1887, St. George, Utah. m. Jesse Branson.

B 2. Polly. b. Jan. 15, 1818.

B 3. Hannah. b. June 24, 1820 in Harrison Co. and d. March 13, 1905. in Farmington, Utah. m. Daniel Arnold Miller, near Carthage, Ill., Dec. 29, 1844, who conducted company to Salt Lake City, Sept. 4, 1848 that included Hannah's father, Jacob Bigler. Daniel A. Miller was Bishop of Kaneshville, 1846-47, treasurer of Davis Co., Utah, and moved to southern Utah May 2, 1858. Their children:

C 1. Isabel Clarinda. b. Jan. 21, 1846 at Quincy, Ill. d. Jan. 4, 1904. m. Adam C. Bigler.

C 2. Joseph Smith. b. Aug. 12, 1847, Council Bluff, Iowa. d. Aug. 8, 1916. m. Lydia Steep.

- C 3. Emeline Elizabeth. b. May 1, 1849, Farmington, d. Nov. 5, 1930. m. Calvin Wilson.
- C 4. Sarah Lavina. b. June 24, 1850, Farmington. d. June 1923. m. John W. Hess, May 30, 1868.
- C 5. Ruth Abigail. b. July 29, 1852, Farmington. m. Charles Turner.
- C 6. Hannah Malinda. b. June 23, 1854, Farmington. m. Jones.
- C 7. David Edgar. b. Oct. 28, 1855, Farmington. d. Aug. 28, 1932. m. Julia Etta Rogers.
- C 8. Bathsheba. b. Jan. 12, 1857, Farmington. m. Ira R. Steed.
- C 9. Daniel Gardner. b. May 29, 1859, Farmington. m. Nellie M. Smith.
- C10. Henry William. b. Oct. 5, 1860, Farmington. m. Anneil Leonard.
- B 4. Emeline. b. Aug. 20, 1824 in Harrison Co., W. Va. and d. Jan. 31, 1862 at Farmington, Utah. m. John W. Hess Nov. 2, 1845 at Nauvoo, Ill. Their children:
- C 1. Jacob Bigler. b. Jan. 6, 1848 at Salt Lake City. d. Mar. 28, 1937. m. Hannah Thornick.
- C 2. John Henry. b. May 14, 1850. Farmington. m. Susan Smith.
- C 3. Sarah Jane. b. Jan. 11, 1852, Farmington. d. Oct. 26, 1852.
- C 4. Hyrum. b. Aug. 20, 1853, Farmington. d. Oct. 30, 1922. m. Adeline East.
- C 5. Elzada. b. Aug. 11, 1854, Farmington. d. June 9, 1926. m. David A. Sanders.
- C 6. Moroni. b. Dec. 30, 1855, Farmington. d. Aug. 9, 1910. m. Emma A. Smith.
- C 7. Jedediah Morgan. b. July 8, 1857, Farmington. m. Mary E. Earl.
- C 8. Joseph Wells. b. Oct. 11, 1859, Farmington. m. Minnie Palmer.
- C 9. Albert Bigler. b. Mar. 17, 1861, Farmington. d. Feb. 12, 1937.
- B 5. Bathsheba. b. Aug. 24, 1826. d. Oct. 8, 1827. m. (2nd) Sarah Cunningham, in early 1828 in Harrison Co. (b. 1810, daughter of Adam and Millia Cunningham of Harrison Co.) Their children:
- B 1. Adam C. b. Dec. 21, 1828, Harrison Co. Arrived in Utah Oct. 11, 1859 in Rice-Stoddard Co. Owned sawmill in Farmington, active lumber dealer, farmer and stock raiser, road supervisor at Farmington for 4 years. d. Jan. 9, 1915. m. (1st) Sarah Ann Compton (daughter of Allen and Mary Burton Compton). Their children:
- C 1. James Allen. b. June 18, 1855.
- C 2. Mary F. b. Jan. 4, 1857. m. Arthus Steed.
- C 3. Marion F. b. Oct. 22, 1859. m. John W. Hess
- C 4. John A. b. Sept. 14, 1862. m. Lydia Beveridge
- C 5. Sarah E. b. Aug. 20, 1863.
- C 6. Mariah L. b. July 12, 1864. d. in infancy.

C 7. Robert B. b. Dec. 25, 1866. m. Fannie M. Reed.  
m (2nd) Isabelle Clarinda Miller, (daughter of David Arnold  
Miller and Hannah Bigler). Their children:

C 1. James Thaddeus. b. Jan. 22, 1868, Farmington, Utah.  
Moved with his parents to Plymouth, Utah where he spent  
most of his life as a successful farmer. Was farm su-  
perintendent of Utah State Prison until age 85. Former  
Bishop in Mormon Church at Riverside, Utah. Now retired  
and living at Garland, Utah. m. Louisa M. Stevenson  
Dec. 20, 1897. Their children:

D 1. Horace J. Bigler. b. Oct. 18, 1901, Plymouth,  
Utah. m. Marie S. Schow Apr. 23, 1927. Educated  
at Utah State College. School teacher most of  
his life, now Principal of Junior High School of  
Salt Lake City. His address 2975 Melbourne St.,  
Salt Lake City 6. His son Glade S. is law school  
graduate and a lieutenant in U. S. Naval Reserve.

D 2. Vesta. m. Jesse Davis.

C 2. Jacob William. b. Aug. 17, 1869.

C 3. Edward. b. Jan. 26, 1871. m. Bertha Pierson

C 4. Hannah Isabelle. b. Oct. 5, 1872. m. Nephi Wolverton.

C 5. Laura Elizabeth. b. Oct. 19, 1873. m. William Archibald.

C 6. Adam. b. April 2, 1876. m. Annie Howell.

C 7. Joseph Arnold. b. Nov. 14, 1878.

C 8. Alvira. b. Sept. 28, 1881. m. Fred Sylvester.

C 9. Stanley Miller. b. Sept. 30, 1890. m. Myrtle Clark.

B 2. Jacob B. b. Dec. 15, 1830, Harrison Co. m. Azenath Patton.

B 3. Mark. b. July 27, 1832, Harrison Co. and d. Oct. 10, 1889. m.  
Harriet Galloway and Mary Barnard - no info. on children. m.  
A. Patton and their children:

C 1. Mark. m. Mary Alice \_\_\_\_\_.

C 2. Jacob. m. Agnes Standing.

C 3. Charles L.

C 4. Julie E. m. Timothy Covert.

C 5. Edward. m. Nora \_\_\_\_\_.

C 6. Sarah. m. Hyram Jansen.

C 7. George.

C 8. Vance. m. Rebecca Smith.

B 4. Andrew. b. Mar. 24, 1834, Harrison Co., d. 1893. m. Lottie  
Smith. Their children:

C 1. Jesse Edward. m. Rachel Donaldson.

C 2. Jacob Henry. m. Harriett Ann Lemon.

C 3. Alice.

C 4. Andrew Jeremiah. m. Harriet Elizabeth Smith.

C 5. Helen.

C 6. Norval.

B 5. Mariah. b. Mar. 13, 1843, Hancock, Ill. d. Jan. 21, 1846.

A 7. HENRY

b. April 24, 1796, Harrison Co. and d. Sept. 8, 1859. m. Hannah  
Dickerson Oct. 3, 1822 (b. Nov. 1, 1803 Bucks Co., Penn. and d.  
July 6, 1875.) Their children:



- B 1. Daniel Mark. b. Nov. 26, 1823 and d. Mar. 6, 1889.
- B 2. Elbert Francisco. b. Dec. 12, 1825.
- B 3. John Henry. b. Oct. 8, 1830 and d. Mar. 2, 1894.
- B 4. Mary Ann. b. June 23, 1833 and d. Aug. 28, 1833.
- B 5. Amanda Ann. b. Nov. 29, 1835 and d. Oct. 27, 1843.
- B 6. Elvira or Elvina. b. Oct. 19, 1840 and d. 1879.
- B 7. Oscar. b. Oct. 18, 1844.

A 8. BATHSHEBA

b. June 29, 1798, Harrison Co. d. Nov. 17, 1826 or 1829 and buried in Smith Cem., on lower Simpson Creek, Harrison Co. m. William Smith, Sept. 30, 1821. Her great grandson Walter M. Elliott, 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va., wrote a short account of Jacob and Hannah Bigler and their children, Sept. 1, 1933, which I saw in the home of Perry Bigler, RD 1, Marianna, Penn. A nearly similar account was published in the Boston Evening Transcript, Nov. 3, 1933, signed E.S.S., which may have been written by one of Bathsheba Bigler Smith's descendants. Children of Bathsheba and William Smith (we have name of only one child but there may have been more):

- B 1. Charlotte. b. Oct. 14, 1822 and d. Aug. 5, 1907. m. Robert Martin (b. Nov. 26, 1822 at Boothville, Marion Co., W. Va.) Feb. 20, 1845. Their children:
  - C 1. Almira. b. Feb. 3, 1846 in Harrison Co., W. Va. d. Mar. 30, 1882. Unmarried.
  - C 2. Boy b. 1847 and d. in infancy.
  - C 3. Bathsheba Ann. b. Dec. 20, 1849, Harrison Co., W. Va. d. Oct. 14, 1927. m. Samuel Aaron Elliott (b. May 29, 1849, d. June 1, 1923) Dec. 24, 1874. Both buried Masonic Cemetery, Shinston, W. Va. Their children:
    - D 1. Stella May. b. Sept. 20, 1875, Upshur, W. Va. m. Wirt Brown Aug. 20, 1907. d. May 20, 1957.
    - D 2. Robert Truman. b. Apr. 28, 1877, Upshur, W. Va. m. Edith Bullock July 5, 1909.
    - D 3. Walter Martin. b. Dec. 11, 1878, Upshur, W. Va., m. Cora Maud Dean (b. July 27, 1881, Upshur. d. Oct. 8, 1955 and buried Masonic Cemetery). Lives at 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va. Their children:
      - E 1. Martin Dean. b. July 7, 1907. m. Alice Mabel Rucker of Taylor Co., W. Va.
    - D 4. Flora Maud. b. July 17, 1883, Upshur. m. Lute Brown Sept. 30, 1908.
  - C 4. Mary Jane. b. Feb. 25, 1851. d. Jan. 16, 1887.
  - C 5. Stella. b. Nov. 23, 1857, d. Aug. 3, 1875.

A 9. MARIA

b. Jan. 29, 1801. d. 1840. m. William Flowers. One child, Rebecca.

A 10. REBECCA

d. in infancy.

Appendix III

CHILDREN OF MICHAEL AND CATHERINE BOOCHER (OR BOOHER) BIGLER  
Washington Co., Penn. (1)

(Michael Bigler was the son of Israel Bigler, who was the son of Mark Bigler I)

A 1. CATHERINE

d. July 24, 1840, age 29 yrs. 3 mos. 29 days; buried Franklin Cemetery.

A 2. DAVID

b. May 15, 1812 and d. April 6, 1884. m. Mahala Smith who d. Aug. 22, 1887 age 69 yrs. In 1876 they lived on a 117-acre farm on the road north of Franklin Cemetery on the west side of the road, according to the Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington County. Both buried in Franklin Cem. W. Bethlehem twp. Their children:

B 1. Ellen, not married. Probably the Ellen Bigler buried in Franklin Cem. whose marker reads 1839-1907.

B 2. Henry, who "married a girl along the river and went to Colo or Cal."

B 3. John. m. Emma Gayman.

B 4. Milton. m. Jane Dunn. Milton was a Baptist preacher.

B 5. Lavina. m. T. A. Marsh.

B 6. Catherine. m. William Engle

B 7. Emma. m. Franklin Garrett.

B 8. Simon. d. Aug. 30, 1838 age 6 mos. 1 day; b. Franklin Cem.

B 9. Michael. d. April 17, 1865 age 20. He ran away to enlist in the Army, enlisted with Co. G. 110th Penn. Vol. Inf., was killed 8 days later, and his marker reads "Died at Harrisburg". Buried Franklin Cem.

B10. Infant daughter, no date on marker in Franklin Cem.

A 3. SIMON

d. June 1, 1825 age 11 yrs 9 mos 24 days; b. Franklin Cem.

A 4. HENRY M.

b. Jan. 4, 1818 and d. Aug. 9, 1880; m. Mary Fulton who was b. Mar. 15, 1826 and d. Aug. 8, 1906. Both buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. of Amwell twp. Caldwell's Centennial Atlas shows them living on a 76-acre farm a short distance northwest of Franklin Cem. in 1876. Their children:

B 1. William Simpson Bigler. b. April 29, 1857, d. Feb. 1944. m. Eliza Martin first wife (she is buried in Franklin Cem.) and Lydia Baker second wife. Children of second wife were:

C 1. Edith. b. Dec. 11, 1894. Her mother died when she was 4 years old and she was raised by Ida Wherry Frazee, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Wherry. Unmarried, now living four miles from her brother; address, Marianna, Penn.

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(1) William S. Bigler Notes, written about 1937, and tombstone inscriptions in Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn. recorded by Norman Burns, Nov. 1958. Census of 1850 lists Michael Bigler's children then living at home: Susannah [or Susan] 40; Rebecca 25; Amanda 21; Benjamin 20.

- C 2. Orris Perry. b. June 5, 1896. Lived with his Uncle and Aunt John and Elizabeth Wherry who left their farm to him when they died. m. Helen Shrontz and was dairy farmer on his 127-acre farm until 1951 when he retired but still lives on his farm, RD1, Marianna, Penn. Interested in fox hunting. He loaned me a copy of his father's Notes from which came most of my information on the Biglers of Washington Co. Their children:
- D 1. Lydia. b. June 17, 1917. m. Walter Wansettler.
  - D 2. E. Jean. b. Nov. 16, 1919. m. Arthur Theakston.
  - D 3. Albert McKee. b. Dec. 2, 1921. Soldier killed during invasion of Italy May 31, 1944.
  - D 4. Baby. d. Mar. 14, 1923.
  - D 5. Ida. b. July 23, 1925. m. Michael McGuane.
  - D 6. Carl Deane. b. Dec. 2, 1926. m. Helen Mankey.
  - D 7. Marjorie. b. May 25, 1928. m. John Carl Riggle.
  - D 8. Edith Lucille. b. May 5, 1930. d. Mar. 15, 1944.
  - D 9. Mary. b. June 25, 1931. m. George G. Franks.
  - D10. Rita. b. Aug. 25, 1933. m. Rev. M. Gaylord Murphy.
  - D11. Gary Brent. b. Dec. 26, 1934. m. Rose Ann Belcastro.
  - D12. William Reed. b. Nov. 14, 1937. m. Jane Bird.
- B 2. Elizabeth. b. June 8, 1845 and d. Mar. 3, 1913; m. John Wherry.
- B 3. Catherine. b. April 28, 1847, d. Aug. 13, 1925; m. James M. Smith. Both buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem.
- B 4. Simon. b. 1850, d. 1900 and b. in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. m. Temperance Riggle.
- B 5. Stephen Fulton. b. Feb. 24, 1852, d. May 27, 1894; and buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem.; m. Rosella Shipe.
- B 6. Michael Dawson. b. Aug. 3, 1854 and d. Sept. 6, 1915 and buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. m. Sarah Margaret Vorhees. They had a son Henry (b. at Ten Mile July 18, 1879 and d. about 1956, formerly a school teacher in Amwell twp, who m. Lydia Duvall) whose biography appears in Forrest's History of Washington County, 1926, as head of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. of Washington, Penn. This biography says that his grandfather Henry M. had two brothers, Benjamin and David, the three of whom had adjacent farms. Henry and Lydia had a number of children (John Dawson, Fred S., Mary Virginia, Sarah M., Dorothea M., Henry Jr.) some of whom are still living in Washington Co., Penn.
- B 7. Henry Austin. b. Feb. 13, 1860, d. April 7, 1912 and buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. m. May Bell Weirick.
- B 8. John Ellsworth. b. Oct. 31, 1862, d. April 2, 1863 and buried Franklin Cem.
- B 9. Israel Gilmore. b. Jan. 12, 1864, d. Aug. 10, 1932 and buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem.
- B10. Walter Scott. b. June 20, 1867, d. April 12, 1927; m. Clara Donahoo.

A 5. BENJAMIN

b. Aug. 27, 1830, d. Mar. 19, 1879. m. Mary Ann Gayman who was b. Nov. 19, 1837 and d. Sept. 7, 1898. In 1876, they were living on a 66-acre farm about a mile northeast of Franklin Cemetery, in a log house a photo

of which I took in 1958. They and their son William (b. Feb. 10, 1875 and d. June 10, 1899) are buried in Franklin Cem. They had 8 children: Isaac Gayman m. Emma Riggle; Alice Caroline m. Sanford Martin; George Gayman m. Mary Baker; Sanford m. Mollie Bigler, both buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem.; Jesse F. m. Betty Weaver; William H., single; Amanda m. Jacob Martin; Michael H. m. Alice Caroline Horn, both buried Zollarsville Cem., Washington Co. Perry Bigler remembers when he was a small boy that Isaac Bigler lived and died in the log house shown in Plate VIII, where his father Benjamin lived.

A 6. ANN

m. Jacob Garrett and had 4 children: Simon m. Susan Smith; Henry m. Margaret Braden; Catherine m. John Horn; Deborah m. Henderson McCaslin and later Silas Horne.

A 7. AMANDA

m. John Robert Drake and had 7 children: Mary V., m. George McVay; Everett E. living in the west; John M., Ella J., Edwin Marion and Sarah E. - no record.

A 8. ELEANOR

m. Eli Grable and had 6 children: Margaret, single; John W. m. Eliza Jane Shidler; James B. single; Sarah Jane and Barbara Ann, twin sisters, single; Rebecca m. Andrew Voorhees

A 9. REBECCA

m. Benjamin Greenlee and had 4 children: Nancy m. James Cass; James B. m. Sarah Iams; Henderson m. Ida Horn; Minnie m. William Woods.

A10. SARAH

m. Robert Hook and had 4 children: William, Austin and Dora, single; Eliza m. Washington Tomlinson.

A11. MARY

m. Phillip Friend and had 2 children: Michael, single; Mary m. George Honnell

A12. SUSAN

single.

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Note: Buried in Franklin Cem: Israel Bigler II, 1811-1884 (I do not know which son of Israel Bigler I was his father); Elizabeth, his wife, 1812-1883; Peter S., their son; Martha Jane, d. of Henry or Jacob Bigler, d. 1860 infant. Buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem., Amwell twp. following Biglers (I do not know their relationship): Allie, 1891-1935; Jacob, 1836-1932; Eliza S., 1841-1910; Ella M., 1870-1889; Mary I., 1834-1889; Myrtle C., 1886-1891; George W., 1835-1910; Sarah A., 1837-1882; Hannah, 1843-1922; Olive B. 1891-1895; Baby Bigler.

Appendix IV

CHILDREN OF DAVID AND NANCY GRAYBILL BIGLER  
Darke Co., Ohio (1)

(Andrew, Rachel, Moses, Daniel, Amos, Barbara, Julia Ann, Phoebe, Nancy, Lydia, Nicodemus, Delila, Israel, Samuel, and possibly Elizabeth. Most and probably all of these children were born in Washington Co., Penn.)

A 1. ANDREW

- b. Feb. 25, 1816. d. Jan. 18, 1892. Lived Elkhart Co., Ind. m. Lydia Rarick in 1837, who d. Aug. 1889. Was farmer west of Goshen, Ind.; Elder and Preacher West Goshen German Baptist Church, organized in 1830. Both buried Yellow Creek Brethren Cem., on Levi Miller farm, near Goshen, but no stone markers there. Their children:
- B 1. Mary. m. Wise. Their daughter Lydia m. Bucher, then Van Netta, and had one child, Bertha Bucher.
- B 2. Nancy. m. Rev. Levi Hoke who followed Andrew Bigler as Elder of West Goshen German Baptist Church. Children: Alvin; Richard; Minnie; Franklin who was Elder of Brethren Church in Roanoke, La.; Grace; Bertha, now living 306 E. Altgeld, South Bend, Ind.; Oliver. Nancy d. 1896 and b. West Goshen Cemetery.
- B 3. Joel. d. when young man.
- B 4. David. m. Eliza Shidler. Children: Blanche; Roy; Lula; Ray.
- B 5. Amos. m. LaVive Boyd. They lived next door to father Andrew's big house. Children: Lawrence; Myrtle; Ora d. Dec. 1958, age 75, was vice president of Goshen Cushion and Body Co., Goshen city councilman and active member of Goshen Brethren Church, m. Grace Greenwalt and had two sons, Richard and Dr. F. W. Bigler, both now living in Goshen.
- B 6. Aaron. m. Martha Chapman. Children: Laura; Delia; Vernon; Grace; and John. Aaron lived to be 88 years old and died in 1943.
- B 7. Elizabeth. Never married. Edythe Neff wrote that she was a small, quiet woman who "spoke to me (when I was a child) more often of my soul than anyone else ever did. She would say, 'Edythe, are you proud?' Pride was an awful sin. I was convicted of my sins when young long before we were baptized into the Church."
- B 8. Isaac. m. Anna Flory who taught school for 15 yrs. He was a farmer and carpenter, living west of Goshen on Plymouth road. Nicodemus Bigler's house of June 1891 was built at edge of their orchard. d. Jan. 17, 1925. Children:

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(1) Biodata from: Edythe Neff, Syracuse, Indiana, chiefly for the Indiana Biglers; Charles and Epaminondas Bigler for most of the Ohio Biglers; Julia Ann Cary of Amlin, Ohio for Julia Ann Bigler Maurer; and a copy of the family tree prepared by and in the handwriting of Isabel Maurer Halladay, daughter of Julia Ann Bigler Maurer, daughter of Nancy Grabill Bigler, that was furnished to me by Mary Hapner, daughter of Isabel Maurer Halladay, of 1429 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona.

C 1. Edythe. b. Mar. 18, 1885, m. Lloyd Neff Mar. 28, 1910. They own Nefflands, Syracuse, Ind. where registered Aberdeen Angus cattle are grown for breeding purposes, the calves going to 4-H Clubs for many foreign countries. He taught grade school for 23 years, of which 18 years were in the Elkhart City school system. She taught grade school for 12 years, of which 10 were in the Elkhart City school system.

C 2. Pierre. b. Nov. 5, 1887. m. Celeste Johnson and lives in Goshen at site of his father's old apple orchard. Their children are: Pierre Jr.; James, who was in the U. S. Army in Germany; Frederick; Philip Daniel who served in U. S. Army for 3 yrs. in Korea; and Max Leroy who served in U.S. Occupation Army in Germany for 2 years.

A 2. RACHEL

b. May 1, 1817. d. after 1893. Lived Elkhart Co., Ind. m. David C. Miller in 1838 (he was b. June 8, 1817 in Montgomery Co., Ohio and d. after 1893) the brother of Mary Miller Bigler. Children:

B 1. Nancy. Was living with her son David, in Koscuisco Co., Ind. in 1893.

B 2. Jacob. b. July 12, 1841 in Darke Co., O. Farmer in Elkhart Co. Wrote his father's obituary in Bigler Reunion ledger. His son William W. Miller of Gary, Ind. was an "able and much liked man", according to Edythe Neff.

B 3. Mary. b. Sept. 13, 1843. m. in 1862 Rev. Daniel Wysong who was Brethren minister for 50 years. They had a 174-acre farm in Union twp., Elkhart Co., two miles from Nappanee, Ind.

B 4. Hannah. b. June 21, 1845 in Ohio. m. Adam Miller, Union twp., Elkhart Co.

B 5. Susan. d. age 7.

B 6. Sarah. m. Charles Stuart.

B 7. Lavina. b. Union twp., Elkhart Co. 1857. m. in 1875 Rev. Henry Wysong of Brethren Church, and lived on farm near Turkey Creek Church. Nicodemus Bigler wrote June 3, 1876: "David Miller's three girls married three Brothers Wisongs all have good farms one a dunkard preacher the other a School teacher he went to school at Terryhut ...."

B 8. Rachel. m. Joseph Geyer of Union twp., Elkhart Co. Many of their grandchildren live around Nappanee, Ind.

B 9. Julia. m. Joshua Wysong, brother of Daniel and Henry.

B10. Malinda. m. Solomon Pepple. Their children: Merve and Mary.

A 3. MOSES

b. May 29, 1818. d. Apr. 27, 1874. Lived Adams twp., Darke Co., O. m. Mary Miller, daughter of Jacob and Mary Michael Miller of Adams twp. Detailed information on their family appears in chapter on Moses Bigler.

A 4. DANIEL

b. Aug. 11, 1819. d. Mar. 16, 1900. Lived chiefly in Elkhart Co. Buried at Rock Run Brethren Cemetery (also known as the Berkey Cem.) about 9 or

10 mi. southeast of Goshen. His grave is near the east side about half way back, according to his grandson Carl Bigler's letter to Edythe Neff of Mar. 31, 1959.

m. (1st) Catharine Mikesell, July 13, 1854 who d. Jan. 7, 1875. Their children:

- B 1. Elizabeth. b. May 20, 1855. d. Aug. 15, 1855.
- B 2. Lydia. b. June 7, 1856. d. about 1952. m. Sam Cripe. She had 12 children and lived to be 95. One daughter, Dora, gave Edythe Neff much information on Daniel's family in summer of 1958.
- B 3. David. b. Sept. 22, 1857. Nicodemus Bigler wrote May 5, 1895 that David was working as a mill wright in Sacramento, Calif making \$4 per day and that he had married a girl there. Edythe Neff has photo of David in 1931, age 74, when he was living in Stockton, Cal. d. 1933.
- B 4. Andrew. b. May 14, 1860. d. about 1945. Lived in Kansas City, Mo. engaged in railroad work. Had 7 children, one of whom is Earle S. Bigler of 7102 Seward Park Ave., Seattle, Washington, who was born July 5, 1895 at Kansas City, Mo. He served as a sergeant with the 42nd (Rainbow Division) in World War I, and as Commanding Officer of Air Transport Command, Air Base Unit Boeing Field, Seattle in World War II, and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Retired. He was Manager of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for Seattle, 1947-1960. His son Robert E. Bigler, is Seattle manager of Gray Line Tours and his daughter is the wife of John S. Mangini, Manager of Mayflower Hotel, Seattle.
- B 5. Moses. b. Mar. 1, 1863.
- B 6. Delila. b. Jan. 30, 1865. Studied at Mount Morris College 2 yrs., taught school, then went in 1889 or 90 to California where her brother was. m. Sam Miller. She died at Stockton, Cal. Apr. 16, 1896. Her daughter Maude Ellen Miller became a teacher in Detroit, Mich.
- B 7. Joseph. b. Nov. 22, 1867.
- B 8. Levi. b. Aug. 19, 1870. d. Aug. 19, 1933 in Centralia, Washington.
- B 9. Daniel Jr. b. June 9, 1873, d. about 1950. No children. Edythe Neff says that Daniel Jr., Andrew and Lydia corresponded every week for years.

m. (2nd) Elizabeth Overholtser Roush (a widow), 1877. Their children:

- B 1. Samuel m. Ella Van Scout. Their children: Uria m. Herman Zipser; Carl m. Rose Smith and taught grade school for 38 years at Elkhart (present address, 3401 Pleasant Plain, Elkhart, Ind.); Mabel m. Rev. Van Horn; Claude m. Helene Miller; Dora; Melvin; Lulu. Edythe Neff says Samuel raised Guernsey cattle at Valley Set Farm near Elkhart.
- B 2. Aaron m. Elva Butterbaugh. No children. They lived near Goshen. After his wife died, he killed himself from grief.

A 5. AMOS

b. about 1820. d. about 1900=2. Farmer, lived near Nappanee, Ind. m. Catharine Maurer, Dec. 31, 1843 in Darke Co., O., a sister of Henry Maurer who m. Julia Ann Bigler. Amos and Catharine are probably buried

in Union Creek Brethren Cem., near Goshen. Their children:

- B 1. Daniel m. Christine (tene) \_\_\_\_\_. Their children were:  
Leander, a banker in Nappanee who m. Charlotte Anglemeyer --  
children Viola, Harry and John; David a mail clerk at Elkhart;  
William, a mail clerk at Goshen; Charles; Lydia; Frank who lived  
in Los Angeles, Cal. and d. there sometime after 1915, no family.
- B 2. Henry. His children were Elmer, Clara, Aaron.
- B 3. John. m. Ida B. Kern.
- B 4. Malinda. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Delother. Their children: Ida; Charles;  
Roy; Mrs. Harry Fuller; Mrs. Oscar Smith.
- B 5. Fannie. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Eiffert.
- B 6. Sarah. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Mock.

A 6. BARBARA

m. John Martin Dec. 31, 1841 in Darke Co., O. No other information available. She probably died relatively young, as her mother Nancy's will of 1858 bequeathed a half share of her estate to Barbara's daughter Sarah. John Martin lived north of the Jacob Miller farm (see Map of 1875). Barbara Bigler was his first wife. After she died, he married again. His son David Martin, by his second wife, married Mary Bigler, daughter of Moses and Mary Bigler.

A 7. JULIA ANN

- b. Sept. 20, 1823. d. Aug. 30, 1896. Lived in Adams twp., Darke Co., O.  
m. Henry Maurer (brother of Catherine Maurer who m. Amos Bigler) Jan. 1,  
1842 in Darke Co. Henry Maurer, 1818-1893, son of Daniel and Sarah Anders  
Maurer. Henry and Julia Ann Maurer are buried in new Harris Creek Cem.,  
about half mile south of the church. Their children:
- B 1. Nancy. 1843-1931. m. Emanuel Miller, lived in Ind.
  - B 2. Daniel. 1845-1867.
  - B 3. Sarah. 1846-1915. m. Ephriam Miller and later Moses Bridenstine.
  - B 4. Joseph. 1847-1906. m. Leah Kniesly, Bradford, O.
  - B 5. Amos. 1849-1915. m. Fannie Walden, grocer in Greenville, O.
  - B 6. Lydia. 1851-1852.
  - B 7. Mary. 1853-1913. m. Benjamin Coat. Lived at Celina, then Bradford.
  - B 8. Fannie. 1854-1879. m. Lee Dickey.
  - B 9. Jacob. 1855-1915. m. Ida Ganby. Lived at Bradford, O.
  - B10. David. 1857-1910. m. Lovina Hartle. Grocer at Bradford.
  - B11. Rachel. b. Aug. 10, 1859. d. Sept. 18, 1882 and buried in the old  
Harris Creek Cem. west of the present church. m. William N. Van-  
tilburg July 18, 1880. Among their children was:
    - C 1. Julia Ann. b. Feb. 14, 1881 in Adams twp., Darke Co. on  
Henry Maurer farm (see map of 1875) m. Frank P. Cary (born  
April 26, 1879 near Plain City, Ohio). They live now on a large  
farm near Amlin, Ohio. Their children, all born near Amlin:
      - D 1. Andrew William b. Dec. 15, 1905. m. Cathryne Atkinson,  
June 28, 1930. BA Denison University 1927; now President  
of the Farmers National Bank of Plain City, Ohio. Their  
only child Andrew William Jr. b. Aug. 24, 1933 was va-  
ledictorian of class at Boys Academy, Columbus, and was  
killed in an automobile accident June, 1951.



- D 2. Opal Flora. b. March 15, 1908. Graduate of Ohio State University in home economics; taught school 3 years; m. William A. Moler, Dec. 26, 1933, who teaches mechanical drawing in South High School, Columbus, Ohio. Their address is 44 West Beaumont Road, Columbus. Their two children are: William Cary Moler born March 2, 1937 and now attending Ohio State University; and Caryl Ann Moler, b. March 2, 1947 now in high school.
- D 3. Edna Belle. b. Jan. 1, 1910. Studied art at Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus and also studied 2 years at Ohio State U. m. John T. Atkinson, a wholesale lumber dealer at Newcomerstown, Ohio (address 245 N. College St.). Their children: Barbara Jane. b. Feb. 1, 1937, graduate of Denison U., teaches English in Lake Forest High School, (suburb of Chicago); Thomas Richard. b. Sept. 28, 1941 now freshman in Denison U.

Bl2. Susannah. 1861-1885. Unmarried.

Bl3. Catherine. 1862-1944. m. Isaac R. Miller April 15, 1883 and d. Oct. 22, 1944. Isaac R. Miller's father, John Jacob Miller, was a brother to Mary Miller Bigler. Isaac R. Miller lived at the farm shown in Map of 1875 designated J. J. Miller.

Bl4. John. 1864. Died in infancy.

Bl5. Isabel. 1866-1947. m. Samuel S. Halladay. She prepared a family tree of David and Nancy Grabill Bigler's family (furnished me by her daughter Mary Hapner, 1429 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona) that was used in this biodata sheet.

Bl6. Henry. 1869-1942. m. Triscie Cable.

A 8. PHOEBE

b. Sept. 13, 1826. d. June 18, 1898. m. Michael Miller, Oct. 24, 1844 in Darke Co., O. (b. sometime around 1817 and d. Feb. 18, 1900). Lived in northern Indiana, around North Manchester, and in Ohio where they died. Their children:

B 1. David. d. in infancy.

B 2. Levi. d. in infancy.

B 3. Jacob. b. Jan. 7, 1848. d. 1920. m. Rosella Walker and had 10 children.

B 4. Amos. b. Mar. 12, 1849. d. Jan. 2, 1929. m. Sarah E. Cupp or Chupp. Lived at N. Manchester, Ind. Their children: Bertha, licensed to Brethren ministry and served pastorate of N. Union Ch. of Brethren, and author of children's book Six Giants, m. Levi Neher; Ida m. Otha Winger, President of Manchester College, Indiana; and their son Professor Paul M. Winger of Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich., is said to have files on the Bigler family history; Edith of North Manchester, Ind.; LeRoy m. Alice Deardorf.

B 5. Rachel.

B 6. Mary. m. \_\_\_\_\_ Gillespie. d. 1934.

B 7. Andrew. d. 1897 in California, of consumption.

B 8-11. Nancy, John, Eli, Lydia - all d. young.

Bl2. Malinda. d. Aug. 1952; blind from age 9 mos.

- B13. Catherine. d. 1938.
- B14. Susan. d. 1943.
- B15. Abraham.

A 9. NANCY

m. Abraham Deeter, Mar. 19, 1845, in Darke Co., O., lived in Darke Co., place of burial not known. Their children:

B 1. Will, who was 6 feet 8 inches tall.

B 2 and B 3. Lee and Isaac.

B 4. Mrs. McGarrity, who married a "rebel from the south", according to Pam Bigler. She was well-to-do. Had a son who was a musician.

B 5. Mrs. McDowell, who married another "rebel from the south". Very poor.

B 6. Mrs. Longanecker.

A10. LYDIA

m. Joseph Fahnestock. Nicodemus Bigler mentions them in his letters of July 15, 1878, March 6, 1890 and Sept. 30, 1884 where he says Joseph and Lydia visited him and that one of their sons was a doctor in Piqua. Apparently they lived in Darke Co. or vicinity.

A11. NICODEMUS

b. May 10, 1829. d. Jan. 5, 1900. m. Hannah Hershey, May 5, 1853, in Darke Co. but in 1871 they were legally separated---without full divorce--- after which she continued to live with the children on the family farm and he went to live in Elkhart Co. where he spent the remainder of his life, chiefly at Goshen where he worked as a shoe cobbler. He returned to visit his family near Gettysburg for a short time when Epaminondas was 12 years old. He is buried at Yellow Creek Brethren Cemetery, near Goshen, where Andrew and Lydia Bigler are buried, but there are no stones to mark the graves. Their children (birthdates from Nicodemus' Bible, in his handwriting, now in possession of Epaminondas Bigler):

B 1. John. b. June 27, 1854. d. Aug. 31, 1860.

B 2. David. b. April 24, 1857. m. Elizabeth Ganby. d. March, 1931. Buried Harris Creek Cem. Farmer, lived on east side of same road, but slightly to the north, or where Charles H. Bigler now lives.

B 3. Jane. b. April 23, 1860. m. Edward Ellsworth Stambaugh, farmer, lived south of Pam's farm.

B 4. Lewis. b. Apr. 18, 1862. d. July 1931 and buried Harris Creek Cem. m. Sarah Stover. Studied medicine Keokuk Medical College and Ohio State University, began medical practice Horatio but moved to Gettysburg in 1900. Biography in Fraser Wilson, History of Darke Co., 1914, which cites family legend of three Bigler brothers coming together to America from old country; family history in this biography not correct.

B 5. Charles H. b. Oct. 10, 1864. Member of Oakland Church of Brethren. Schoolteacher for 33 years in and around Gettysburg, Ohio until his death July 2, 1959, age 94. Buried Harris Creek Cemetery, Bradford, O. m. Martha Wineland, b. Dec. 29, 1870. d. Aug. 17, 1937. Their children:

- C 1. Grace. b. Apr. 19, 1892, a teacher who m. Dr. A. W. Anderson now teaching at the University of Illinois.
- C 2. Ruth. b. Feb. 22, 1895, d. Nov. 29, 1909.
- C 3. Robert Lee. b. Nov. 10, 1903, graduate of Ohio State University; teaches chemistry at high school in Cumberland, Maryland.
- C 4. Fay Marguerite. b. Jan. 12, 1907. m. Mac Stoltz Sept. 1, 1945; teaches in Greenville grade school. Address RD 2, Greenville, Ohio.
- B 6. Epaminondas. b. June 15, 1870. Last living son (Aug. 1960) of Nicodemus Bigler. m. Elsie Louridge. Major in U.S. Marines, now living on farm, formerly owned by his parents, near Gettysburg, Ohio, address RFD 1, Bradford, Ohio. Their children:
  - C 1. James Campbell. b. 1910. Annapolis Naval Academy, 1928-32; entered Marines 1932, now Colonel in U.S. Marines, Cherry Point. N. Ca.
  - C 2. John Lewis. b. 1916; served in U.S. Army in France during WW II; now operates father's farm near Gettysburg, Ohio.
  - C 3. Elsie Hannah. m. H. Nash Williams, lives at McKenney, Va.

A12. DELILA

b. Aug. 24, 1830. d. 1910. Lived west of Goshen, Ind. m. Levi Miller b. 1838 d. 1912. Both buried in cemetery of Mennonite Church (land sold to Mennonites by Andrew Bigler, according to Nicodemus Bigler's letter of Feb. 23, 1878), about half mile east of Yellow Creek Cem. which was on Levi Miller's farm. Yellow Creek Brethren Ch. was organized 1856 and Levi Miller hauled first load of lumber for this church which was built in 1867. Their children:

- B 1. Amos. d. 1935. m. Jennie Domer who d. 1914 [or 1944?]
- B 2. Amanda. b. 1866. d. 1945. Not married.

A13-15. ISRAEL, SAMUEL AND MARY

d. in infancy. No information other than these names obtained from a copy of family tree prepared by Isabel Maurer Halladay.

A16. ELIZABETH

The Biglers now living have never heard of a daughter of David and Nancy Bigler named Elizabeth; nor is there such a name in either Mrs. Isabel Maurer Halladay's family tree or Nancy's will. However, the Darke Co. marriage records list an Elizabeth Bigler who m. Joseph H. Hershey, Jan. 5, 1850. Nicodemus Bigler's letter of June 28, 1885 says: "My sister is married to John Harshey's brother"; and on Sept. 1, 1896 he wrote, "Joseph Hershey was married to my sister Lydia". Since Lydia married Joseph Fahnestock, he may have confused Joseph Hershey and Joseph Fahnestock.

Appendix V

Biographical History of Darke County, Ohio, Biography  
of Cyrus Bigler, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., 1900

This well known and representative citizen of Darke County, Ohio, - Cyrus Bigler, whose home and farm are on section 36, Wayne Twp - is a native of the county and dates his birth in Adams township, August 13, 1844. Mr. Bigler traces his ancestry along the agnatic side for a hundred years back to Denmark. [wrong] Three brothers of the name Bigler came together to America and here they soon separated, one settling in N. Y., one in Pa. and one in Va. and from these have sprung all the Biglers in this country. Moses Bigler, the father of Cyrus, was a native of Maryland, born in 1818, and his father, David Bigler, was also born in that state. The former came to Ohio at an early day, about 1828, and was one of the first settlers of Darke county. Through his mother Mr. Bigler is related to the Millers, one of the largest and a much respected family of Darke county, they having removed here from Kentucky about the time it was admitted as a slave state. Mrs. Bigler, the mother of our subject, was formerly Miss Mary Miller. She was born in Adams township, this county, a daughter of Jacob Miller, and is still living, at the age of seventy-four. To Moses and Mary Bigler were born five children, two sons and three daughters, Cyrus being the eldest. The others are as follows: Jacob, who is married and living on a farm in Michigan; Nancy, wife of John Long, of Adams township, Darke county; Mary, wife of David Martin, also of Adams township; and Lydia, wife of Charles Jackson, of Pleasant Hill, O.

In his youth, Mr. Bigler had good educational advantages, attending school in his native township, later being a student in the Greenville schools, and still later entering what was known as Whitewater College, at Centerville, Ind. At the age of 17 years, Mr. Bigler began teaching school, which occupation he followed in his native county during the winter season for several years, or up to the time of his marriage, after which he located on the farm where he now resides, and where he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. His home place comprises one hundred acres and he has 70 acres in another tract, all of which he operates.

Mr. Bigler married Miss Lydia A. Lowe, a native of Palestine, German township, Darke Co., Ohio, who died in 1887 \* \* \* For his second wife Mr. Bigler married Miss Ida Seifert and by her has one son, Herman.

Politically Mr. Bigler has always given his support to the Democratic party, and has at times filled local office. In 1880 he was assessor. At this writing he is a director in the German Baptist Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Covington, Miami county, Ohio. He is a member of the German Baptist Church.

"Obituary of Cyrus M. Bigler", Versailles Policy, Jan. 1928

Cyrus M. Bigler, son of Moses and Mary Miller Bigler was born in Adams Township, Darke County, Ohio on Aug. 13th, 1844, and died on January 23, 1928, aged 83 years, 5 mos. and 10 days.

His whole life was spent in this neighborhood. He located on the farm home when a young man, and with his own hand cleared most of it, and in doing this cultivated not only the land but a love and knowledge of nature that made him an able horticulturist and authority on agriculture in its finer phases. He saw beauties in nature that only its lovers see and his trees were above money value to him.

He was always interested in the civic and religious welfare of the community and held many positions of honor and trust. He was brought up in the faith of the Church of the Brethren and to the faith he remained true unto death. He was a charter member of Oakland church and was always active in its service.

On Oct. 1, 1868 he was married to Lydia A. Lowe, who died in 1887.

On Oct. 23, 1890 he was again married to Ida Seifert who died in 1917. He is survived by nine children, Charles, Earl, Jacob, Clyde and Ray Bigler, Mrs. Lulu Grove, Mrs. Stella Schellert, Mrs. Mabel Burns, and Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He leaves also three sisters, Mrs. Nancy Long of Greenville, Mrs. Mary Martin of Adams Township and Mrs. Lydia Jackson of Troy, O., 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren and many other more distant relatives and friends.

The Children

Cyrus M. Bigler Estate (Darke Co. Probate Court, filed Mar. 8, 1928)

Assets

Corn on hand	\$ 270.00
Wheat on hand	95.00
Bank deposits	228.00
Promissory notes and deposits	6,156.79
Total Personal Property	<u>6,749.89</u>
Real Estate, appraised value	
Tract 1 - 80 acres, Sec. 36	10,700.00
Tract 2 - 80 acres, Sec. 35	6,000.00
Total Real Estate	<u>16,700.00</u>
Total appraisement of all assets	23,449.89

Liabilities

Funeral expenses and doctors bill	816.00
Taxes	150.00
Court costs	100.00
Total liabilities	<u><u>1,066.00</u></u>

Journal entry Mar. 29, 1928 for inheritance tax:

Gross value estate	23,449.89
Net actual market value	22,383.89
which amount passes to his 9 children	
one-ninth each as inheritance	

Appraisers: Charles Dickey, Earl Miller,  
Samuel Long

Appendix VI

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF NICODEMUS C. BIGLER

(Excerpts from about 200 letters written by Nicodemus C. Bigler to his daughter, Jane, of Gettysburg, Ohio, after he separated from his wife and family in 1871 and went to Elkhart County, Indiana where he worked as a shoe cobbler until his death in 1900. His wife Hannah Hershey Bigler continued to live on the family farm south of Oakland Church in the house built by Nicodemus where his son Epaminondas was still living in 1960. The letters are now in the possession of Mrs. Mac Stoltz (Marguerite Bigler), RFD 2, Greenville, Ohio, granddaughter of Nicodemus C. Bigler. The letters are interesting not only for the information they contain concerning the children of David and Nancy Bigler in Darke County, Ohio and Elkhart County, Indiana but also for their occasional glimpses into mid-west country life in the late nineteenth century. Excerpts were made by Norman Burns who read the letters in January, 1959.

1875

June 14. "I often think of Pamy [his son Epaminondas] when i last saw him he could not walk or talk he was a fat Big boy but now he can run and play and would not know me any more when he was a baby i held him almost day and night when he had a sore head .... I would like to know what Henry Miller [brother of Mary Miller Bigler] sold their mill [at Webster] at and what they payed for their land I am afraid they will end like Michael Miller John C. Millers Brother He moved and traded until he has nothing any more He lives South from here on one of his Brothers farms."

1876

June 3. "David Millers [his wife Rachel was N's sister] three girls married three Brothers Wisongs all have good farms one a dunkard preacher the other a School teacher he went to school at Terryhut in the South western part of this state one of Andy Biglers girls is married to Levi Hoke he is a School teacher and has 15 acres in one garden to supply the Goshen market with vegetables he lives in sight of Goshen."

1877

June 5. "Dave [Miller] my Brotherinlaw owns 160 acres well improved large house and Barn and a large orchard and plenty of money on Interest he lives six miles from here Levi Millers [who married N's sister Delila] lives 2 miles from here they own 80 acres of the old farm the old folks are both dead they have a large house and Barn and the old orchard Hydraulic works to force the water out of a spring up the hill into the milk trough that is the place where his dady lived many years they sold their land and bought a part of the old farm."

July 1. "Daniel Bigler [N's brother] was in my shop a Saturday he lives six miles east of Goshen he wanted me to help him to cut his harvest he went two miles west of Wakarusa to Overholzers where he took a young woman south to the Brick Dunkard church and married her Berkholder a Dunkard preacher married them She is a widow-woman."

Aug. 2. South West. "They have a singing every Sunday night they pay their singing teacher \$3<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a night then take in more money than they want to pay their teacher they keep close door and all but the Scholars have to pay ten cents they run in for miles in every direction on Buggies and wagons they can not all get in the house and then they carouse outside the roads are chucked up on all sides with Buggies .... Levi Millers comes to see me tolerably often and nearly every time they bring me a Basket full of eatables they have done that every Since I live here pies Butter apple-butter meat cakes ec I do their shoe mending for them then they want to pay me besides for my work I do not think there are Better people in the country than they were they had everything plenty 160 acres of land a large orchard."

Sept. 4. "I would like to know how Jacob and Cyrus Bigler are agetting along i have [not] read a letter from Cyrus for several years old Huddle, i guess, owns the Webster [flour] mill. I used to be in Webster and many a day i helped to build that Barn of Jacob Bashore [Mary Miller Bigler's brother-in-law] i made the Blinds in the old mill for Henry Millers dady when old Jacob [father of Henry Miller and Mary Miller Bigler] owned the mill he wanted me to help to tend the mill old Jacob is dead and gone If Henrys would a staid on old Jacob Millers farm they might be independent now."

Nov. 10. Wakarusa. "Just lighted my candle to write this letter I heard a wonderful babbling i listened and run out of Doors then I knowed what it was it was a large Flock of wild Geese high up in the air I could not see them although the Moon is a shining and the sky clear they are from the northern lakes as it gets too cold for them north they fly up in large Flocks and fly South where it is warm ...."

May 1 (year illegible) South West. "Yesterday they buried Rarick a Brother to old Jacob Rarick in Ohio he lived east of Goshen they brought him up to Levi Millers to bury him where old Jacob Miller and his wife are buried he was a brother in law to Andy Bigler he was a brother to Levi Millers Mother .... I pittied little Epaminondas with his little pet dog a playing he was a little Baby when i left he must keep his little pet dog until I come to see him."

## 1878

Feb. 23. "Andy Bigler Sold the Mennonites the ground where their church stands on when he owned a farm on Yellow Creek and Bought a farm one mile west of Goshen and paid one hundred dollars an acre Andy Bought another piece of land in sight of Goshen about a year ago .... I heard that Abraham Deeter [who married N's sister Nancy] was Broke up."

Mar. 13. South West. "Wheat is \$1.10 a bushel corn 35 cents a Bushel Oats 25 <sup>00</sup> cts a Bushel Butter 18 cents a pound Eggs 8 cents a dozen Maple molasses \$1<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a gallon Pork 8 and 10 cents a pound".

July 15. Wakarusa. "I talked with Joseph Fahnestock and Lydia [N's sister] after the yearling meeting was over they came out north on a visit Mary Bigler [probably Mose Bigler's wife] was in to see me She said that she would go to see you after she got home."

1879

Jan. 21. "Christians in Wakarusa had a protracted meeting for several weeks day and night a Sled load of men and women living some six miles east passed nearly every night a singing as they passed about dark and then going home about 9 o'clock after night singing as merry as the Birds. I like to hear them sing as they glided past the door a big wagon box on the sled with straw quilts and Buffalo robes the very coldest nights snow or blow they went .... I was at the Dunkard meeting last Sunday a week ago Andy Bigler preached."

June 3. Bremen. N wrote that after his return from a visit to Oakland Church and family, he bought 2 acres of land from Pete Miller, land running to the lake at Bremen. It is called Big Lake and is 4 miles long and 2 miles wide.

Aug. 17. Bremen. "I rode with Jake Myres out to Dave Millers Staid all night with them (that is Henry Millers Brother) and walked to Goshen the next day and took dinner with Andy Biglers staid with them until the next day I had splendid feasting the Boys were cutting oats with the Reaper they were loaded with fruits the garden was Bending with ripe goose kerns and others the many cherry trees had been red full and a good many late ones left the people picked them on Shares Andy was down on the river fishing He did not come home until towards Eavening He took his spear along he said that he had speared a large pike nearly one yard long He tried to hold him Andy Jumped into the river to hold him fast But he got loose and swum under some drift the fish come out of the Lakes into Elkhart river. Andy is not well the doctors say He cannot live long .... I often think of Abraham Deeters you ask Nancy Deeter [N's sister] whether she has the family record that is what our Mother gave to her I think my doff Shine is the dutch name for it. I had forgot to ask her when I was in Ohio."

1880

Feb. 5. "Three Germans crossed the Ocean for America and them were my Grandfathers two Boys became orphans and rafted on the river the one was Govenor of Calafornia the other Govenor of Pennsylvania and United States Senator and plenipotentiary and foreign minister to South America. When I run through Pennsylvania on the Railroad some old Gentlemen told me he knew the Bigler farms well that was my cousin Govenor Biglers .... there is one of Marks Biglers Boys in Goshen he told Andy that he lived in New York city."

April 26. Bremen. "I have an outline 120 feet long in the lake with some 27 hooks to it and Bought me a net 60 feet long to catch fish and paid \$5



for it And a splendid pole and line to fish I intend to have fish enough to eat this summer the ducks are here by the hundreds the muskets are Booming they shoot them to Eat i cooked one it was too fat i could not eat it i do not like ducks cooked and fried the people are spearing fish on the lake this spring Some nights i counted eight lights on the lake it is a wonder that there are any fish in the lake yet for the people are continually fishing But this lake covers more than 5000 acres and is deeper in the middle than a high tree."

July 11. Bremen. "I worked  $6\frac{1}{2}$  days in harvest some days it went tolerable hard I raked and bound after a cradle for \$2<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a day .... The Markets here are about as follows Wheat is \$1<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a Bushel Corn 35 a Bushel Oats 25 cents a Bushel Butter 9 cents a pound Eggs 10 cents per dozen Harvesting was here \$2<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a day for Binding Haying \$1<sup>25</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a day!"

Dec. 7. Bremen. "West of this lake is a large dunkard settlement and a rich settlement in St. Jo county Amos Bigler lives in that neighborhood .... The ice is about one foot thick they sawed it in Blocks  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide I hauled 22 Blocks on a load we drove into the lake about 18 rods the water is about 4 feet deep where they Sawed there were some 18 teams hauling to fill the Ice houses in Bremen I hauled for Walters he keeps a Hotel in town we hauled about one hundred tons to fill his ice house we had a jolly time hauling ice they carried whisky freely the Land lord wanted to treat me I told him that I am a temperance man."

### 1881

Feb. 22. N recalled how his daughter Jane used to get catnip tea for "little Palmy" when he would cry at night.

Dec. 24. "Amos Bigler lives in a rich neighborhood of splendid farms. So does Andy Bigler. Amos told me when he lived at Syracuse lake he followed Shoemaking .... I live with mush and dry Bread and wheat coffee when i am home."

### 1882

Jan. 19. South West. "Jacob Bigler married a girl that is worth money [On Jan. 29, 1877 he wrote that "Jacob Bigler had more sense than Cyrus Bigler"] I say Bully for Epaminondas to spell the teacher down I taught School ten years in there one winter that i taught i tended three spelling matches and spelled them all down on the one side one after the other I want Charley to tend the School regular and make a good teacher [N's son Charles who later taught school for 33 years] Shoemaking does not pay on this lake Shore they are nearly all poor and they wont pay for me to live by that so I have to coon out for days work at 75 cents a day."

Feb. 26. N wrote his daughter to ask his wife Hannah "if she would loan me twenty five dollars .... you will get it again." He quoted prices at Goshen: wheat \$1.26 bushel, corn 50 cents a bushel, eggs 18 cents a dozen, butter 18-25 cents a pound.

1883

July 21. "Andy Bigler is agoing to visit the old neighbors in there [near Oakland Church] that are aliving yet and the old homestead in the next month August .... When I was at the stupendous Niagra Falls four years ago I was under the falls in the largest Museum in North America .... In 1812 my Father was drafted to serve in the army then stationed at niagra falls he paid his draft money and remained at home."

Sept. 6. South West. "I was in Goshen day before yesterday and at Andys and took dinner with them Andy was at the river a fishing Daniel Bigler lives some 30 miles east on doctor Wickhams farm but he rented a farm close here again and is amoving here again."

1884

April 14. "I heard my Father say who was drafted in the war of 1812 and paid his fine as draft money \$92<sup>99</sup>/<sub>100</sub> that the snow in the winter before the war was after night sometimes as red as blood". A later letter of Jan. 20, 1885 mentions again the snow in the winter of 1812 which he says was red as blood, according to his Father.

April 29. Goshen. "I paid my two dollars fine a day to be Exempt from military duty and never voted for 4 years in the time of the rebellion Lew must get clear of that [military service].... I burned my Father's receipt releasing him from a draft in 1812 he paid \$92<sup>99</sup>/<sub>100</sub> to pay his fine I saved his receipt long after he was dead He was a good man and is Buried on our old farm clost to where you live when we lived in Pennsylvania.

Our close neighbor Nicodemus Macfarlan a rich man and an old Congrasman he went down to Washington city yearly to help to enact laws in 1812 he had one of his Boys appointed as an officer in the army then Stationed at Black rock niagra falls they had an engagement and a bullet went through him he got off his horse and gave him to his aidecamp and sat down and leaned against an oak tree and wrote a letter to his Father The Blood dropped on the paper he was writing on and when he was done writing he fell dead When his Father received the letter in the Eavening he did not say a word that hapened to none but he walked the room all night the next morning he told his wife after that he left his Boys out of the army I was named after Nicodemus Mafarlan when we moved to the far west to where our old farm is I was then a Baby old Honorable Mr. Mcfarland took me in his arms and followed the wagons and gave me a gift for his namesake." [This was state congressman Abel McFarland who is buried in Franklin cemetery, Washington County near the graves of Israel and Catherine Bigler.]

July 18. South West. "Deliah [N's sister] has bought me a basket full of eatables nearly every week since I live here and Rachel Miller [N's sister] Butter meat Applebutter and maple molasses they brought here and Bread and pies so that i did not buy much they brought me bed clothes and knitted me woolen socks Amanda Miller made a nice quilt knitted a pair of woolen socks

and made a shirt and a handkerchief and Brought them here for me all for nothing. Deliah Miller gave me three nice quilts I have lost nearly all my things through Pete Millers laziness i lost my house and two acres of land [at Lake Bremen] I had planted a lot of trees on it .... [speaking of his children he said] "the children made me much trouble they are growed so that i would hardly know them again and I could not do anything for them here but to be ashamed of myself."

Sept. 30. South West. "Joseph Fahnestock and Lydia [N's sister] were here last week Joseph one of his boys is a doctor in Piqua made in one month \$375<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> young Boys and girls are receiving their \$2<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a per day for teaching common Schools I do not see what my Boys are piddling at I taught School when i was 19 years old and they ought to study day and night or learn a trade."

### 1885

Feb. 8. "For more than three weeks the dunkards held their meeting for 15 nights in succession and Baptized under ice three girls and one Boy in all 4 the meeting house was filled with people some nights that they had no seats for some."

May 19. "I was in Waterford and Goshen last Saturday nearly 40 years I was through here it was very different to what it is now Goshen was a small town with ricketty frame buildings and little Groceries and dry goods Stores the Indians would come in to town on their little ponies to barter I walked west [nearly 40 years ago] ten miles from Goshen to where Brother Andy had bought 160 acres he had a small field or two fenced in there were but a few commencements made between him and Goshen the wolves would howl around the house after night As I walked down to Waterford last Saturday I thought of how different it looks and is now to what it was then nearly all the land cleared and fenced into fields with magnificent Brick houses the yards adorned with evergreens and wind pumps rolling their wheels with large orchards of good fruit trees and splendid painted Barns with glittering lightening rods extending aloof and many towns and magnificent cities with their hum and noise of their many different machineries and the Electric lights illuminating far and wide around after night."

June 28. South West. "I was some 40 miles south two weeks ago i staid with Michael Millers [married N's sister Phoebe] i had not saw them for 28 years She did not know me any more they own 80 acres well built on the side of a lake from their porch there is a fine view over the lake to a town Laketon Mike and his Boy were on the lake on a boat fishing they made supper and rung the bell and they came home Mike is a preacher Michael then took me the next day in his buggy to the Railroad station .... My sister is married to John Harshey's brother." (an Elizabeth Bigler married Joseph H. Hershey Jan. 5, 1850, according to the Darke Co. records).

### 1886

Mar. 1. South West. "Andrew had 160 acres about 2 miles west he commenced in the thick woods [when N. first passed through here nearly 40 yrs. ago] now it looks different."

Dec. 14. "i was in Goshen about a week past a tall well dressed man passed me and spake some good words as he passed. It was one of Jacob Bigler's boys from New York city he keeps the fur and hat store in Goshen second cousin Henry Biglers two boys were govenors the one of Pennsylvania the other of Calafornia [Jacob and Susan Bigler's two sons William and John were Go-vernors of Pennsylvania and California respectively]"

1887

Aug. 5. Comments to his daughter Jane who was planning to visit the Goshen area. "They nearly all know Andy Biglers in Goshen one mile west from Goshen a big road from Goshen runs past their house [Edythe Neff wrote me Nov. 6, 1958 that this was the "Plymouth road" and that her father's house was on the same road, the first house after leaving Goshen and crossing that mill road] Some of Andys are in the city nearly every day and any body can tell you where they live there at Andy Biglers you are welcome to stay as long as you want to they have several nice top buggies and they will take you where you want to go. Levi Hokes lives one mile west of Andies Levi is married to one of Andie's girls they are doing well and one of Andies Boys lives 20 miles north two miles from the city of Bristol they bought 80 acres there he is married to one of Chapmans girls the one that has the knife factory at Goshen Some of your knives in the Oakland church he made Dan Bigler's oldest girl is about Goshen with her friends she is single and belongs to the dunkards Dan Bigler lives some 25 miles east from Goshen he has rented a large farm on the road from Marion to Goshen at North Manchester on the railroad lives Michael Millers a brother to John C. Miller close to you he is married to one of my sisters [Phoebe Bigler] they have a large family one of the Boys is a Schoolteacher and a printer and then you go [8 miles west of Andies] to Levi Millers [Levi's wife Delila was N's sister] there you stay as long as you want to they have the old farm and are well fixed with buildings and have things plenty She would be glad to see you and they will take you to David Millers Henry Millers Brother he is married to one of my Sisters [Rachel] they have a large farm and good Buildings and things in abundance Amos Biglers they have things plenty" (Aug. 5, 1887. N. wrote Jane Nov. 24, 1887 after her visit to Goshen so I assume date of this letter is Aug. 5, 1887 instead of 1881 the year being illegible).

Miscellaneous. N. wrote he had taught school for 10 years (Sept. 5, 1887). He asked about "our old farm where Bill Evans used to live (Aug. 9, 1883). He signed his name Charles Bigler (May 15, 1886). He was living 8 miles from Goshen (April 18, 1889). He wrote "I have been a good Hoosier for 17 years" (Mar. 4, 1888).

1889

Feb. 22. "I am trying to live justly and peacable and cleanly and charitable if but poor nearly all the tramps are coming in to see me I work for them for nothing there is an old tramp comes in regular I gave him money to buy cloth for a blue bundle two pairs of shoes suspenders mittens socks He

came in crying had his feet frozen his socks in shoes tore i gave him woolen socks and something to eat he is a poor old duchman it is full of tramps through this part of the country."

May 3. "One of Daniel Biglers 2nd wife's boys come in this week he was in the north of Michigan two years among the Indians He told me that they fight the whites are generally in the fault many of the white boys married Indian girls they make the best of women the Indian girls are soon half crazy after the white Boys they have parties and dances some Indians are good fiddlers and waltzers when i was among them a year ago at Peru the Indian women were not near so bad and mean as the whites."

July 15. "Andrew Bigler and David Miller were in old Virginia." On Aug. 28, 1875, N. wrote that "Andy talks of going to the State of Virginia to visit". One wonders whether he was homesick to revisit the scenes of his youth in Washington County, Penn.

Sept. 13. "Lydia Bigler Andrew Biglers wife is dead and buried close here at Levi Millers [N's brother-in-law] i was at their house about two weeks before she died she was well and laughing when i came into the house she went out and called Andy in he was out in the field the next i heard she was dead they lived 52 years together peacable she was a very good woman always i went to Andys some three weeks after she was buried the house was empty i took a chair he soon came in sat down and cried and would not talk then he spake a few words and i left since that i have not seen him 52 years ago i went with him to move her things from old Wises to where Mary Bigler now lives he had 40 acres there and then sold to Mose Bigler they all said that Lydia was such a good woman."

### 1890

Mar. 6. "I received a letter from Joseph Fahnestock yesterday they had been very bad Lydia [N's sister] was not expected to get well but is now safe .... Dan [N's brother] heard from his girl Deliah she used to come here she was in Mount Morris College under Royer two years then taught School and kept house in Goshen at two dollars per week last fall she came here and shuck hands called me out she had hired a horse and Buggy in Goshen and then soon left for Kansas City Missouri and now she is in California with her Brother two of her Brothers are in a large city in Missouri.

### 1891

Mar. 21. "Cyrus Bigler made a fool of himself tended Centerville college taught school and then married poor Lydia Low and a large family and a 2nd If he would have left his woman away he would be honorable and Somebody .... I done shoe-mending for a stout German man just 6 years from Frankfort Germany He paid \$27.00 from Bremerhaven to New York City there were 1150 emigrants on the Steamship."

June 12. Goshen. "I am about done with my new house i paid \$24<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> to a carpenter until the roof was on i rented the ground for 15 years the house

belongs to me to sell or move I built a story and nearly a half out of new clean Michigan pine and Pennsylvania Hemlock plained out of the Goshen lumber yard I have the most pleasant and delightful situation around the city There is no house closer than Isaac Bigler [Andrew's son and Edythe Neff's father] and that is some 20 rods off I cannot see his house on the top of the hill I am getting work on the shoe Bench some of my old customers are passing to the city and giving me work I bought 8 coards of good shugar stove wood for next winter I can have my bread fresh out of the bakery every morning. Andy Bigler comes in or walks down to see me very often to talk he was here yesterday He is tolerable stout again. I had a magic lantern show here one night They said it was very good." Edythe Neff wrote me Jan. 26, 1959 that her father's house was on the Plymouth road and that their orchard extended to the west door step of Nicodemus' house that was built at the foot of the hill. After he died, the house looked awfully empty, she said, and someone bought it and moved it away. "I can still see the horse drawn wagon going down the road, creaking along, taking the house west on Plymouth road", she wrote.

Aug. 9. "Phoebe Miller [N's sister] was here yesterday from North Manchester she said that John C. Miller was buried she came in with Nancy Deeter [N's sister] and one of the Maurers."

Nov. 29. Goshen. "Rabbits are plenty here Isaac Bigler shot 22 in one day big and fat ones around the house and in the orchard hedge and woods along the river towards the mill dam. Amos Bigler and Henry his son and his wife stoped here last week they were here visiting they live some 35 miles South west."

## 1892

Jan. 21. "Yesterday we buried Andrew Bigler he died Monday [Jan. 18] in the forenoon at 10 o'clock he took a speall the last days he wanted to be anointed they sent for Neff in Goshen and Levi Hoke anointed him about a half hour before he died he wanted to see his children and little grandchildren in his dieing hour to give them the last farewell i went to the house in the morning and then to the church funeral services preached here and then we took sleds and took him west to Levi Millers it was awful cold we were shivering with cold at the grave and then went in to Levi Millers where their rooms [were] nicely carped and warmed and two long tables with the most splendid good seasoned eatables and we all took a good meal men and women David Miller Henrys Brother came here early in a sleigh Levi Miller and Deliah [N's sister] and Daniel Bigler He now layed last 'night again beside Leidia his wife where they are glad to see each other again."

Feb. 14. When a stranger told N. of the red sky that evening "I told him that it was the regular war cloud when the great rebellion commenced the same cloud was seen I heard my Father say in the war of 1812 the same red cloud was seen our neighbor said that in the winter the snow on the ground shone as red as blood I have the recorded history in the revolution the same cloud appeared."

April 29. Amos Bigler played the fiddle and his boy the organ at Amos house when N. showed his magic lantern.

July 22. N. says he talked with a neighbor "about old Jacob Miller Henry's father I always liked old Jacob [Mary Miller Bigler's father] and worked a great deal for him."

### 1893

June 9. N. included with his letter a list of marriages of Elkhart Co. in 1878, published in the Goshen Daily Times, which reported three marriages performed by Rev. Andrew Bigler. [Charles C. Chapman, History of Elkhart County, Indiana, 1881, p. 884 mentions that Andrew Bigler was a preacher in the German Baptist Church of Goshen].

July 9. "Levi Bigler one of Dans Boys showed me his sisters Leida picture her man Cripe and their four children all on one picture they own a good farm of 160 acres at Rochester Indiana and 160 acres west Levi first came from North Manchester He staid with Michael Millers one night one of their girls left for Calafornia to Los Angelles close to the ocean one of her sisters married and lives there Deliah Bigler married and lives in Calafornia about 100 miles from her sister.

Oct. 24. "Ike [Isaac Bigler] works at carpentering work and farming keeps three good horses he settled up Andy Biglers estate the farm they sold for eight thousand dollars."

Nov. 5. "Isaac Bigler [Andrew's son] returned from the tumultuous City of Chicago with his family they were seven days and nights in the City of Chicago three days in the world's fair and Buffalo Bills great circus show and theatrical performances and the museum."

### 1894

Sept. 11. "My dear Jane and Hannah and all the other Boys I received your letter today and was glad for it. I have not heard from you ones since last spring I wrote several Letters To you and received none from you until today and was glad to hear I thought that you had forgotten me or was angry i looked all summer in my letter Box for a letter from you and got none." N. said he had nothing against Joseph Hershey. N. mentions how he came here 23 years ago.

Sept. 30. "Deliah Miller [N's sister] was here yesterday she passed here in a buggy to town and brought me a crock full of good applebutter and eggs i never pay them for what they bring to me they have it plenty they have fixed their house and things the grandest in the township."

Nov. 25. "Malinda one of Amos Bigler's girls she came to school to me at the head of Syracuse Lake i boarded with them in the Eavening i taught Malinda and Fany arithmetic."

Dec. 21. "Isaac's children came in this morning and said that I worked nearly all night they are the nicest and smartest children that can be found Enos [Pierre Bigler] is about 5 years old and Edith [Mrs. Edythe Neff] is about 9 years Anna Isaacs wife used to teach School she is a dress maker now and is busy day and night working for the city women she makes more money than I can at my trade." N. mentions that the Goshen grocery store has oranges, lemons and bananas from Chicago.

Dec. 29. Goshen. "Nancy Bigler one of Andrews girls married to Levi Hoke lives about one mile east in the south end of town has been in bed for sixteen weeks with the typhoid fever two doctors in town tended to her and gave her up as incurable. Liz her sister and her own grown girl tends to her Levi Hoke is a Dunkard preacher .... i carried my old feather bed down stairs and I slept under it it is the old feather bed that I and Hannah slept under 42 years past I washed it and cleansed it it is good yet and the blue coverlet Hannah had when we first moved i have it on the bed every night i patched it and washed it so often it is about in shreds. I often think of Hannah and am very sorry if i done wrong to her If i had to live the life again i would be very good to her and her father and mother i am sorry for all."

1895

Feb. 26. "John Bigler in Goshen Sold his large splendid farm at Cleavland Ohio and is Buying machinery he is one of Jacob Biglers sons from New York City our relations." N. said he had a large farm 5 miles west of Goshen.

Undated newspaper clipping in N's letter. Jacob G. Bashore b. Jan. 25, 1827 Rockingham Co. Va., migrated to Berks Co. Pa., 1830, d. age 68 yrs. 2 mos. 28 days. Funeral Harris Creek church, April 23, 1895. In 1834, he migrated to Miami Co., settled near Covington, and later he settled one mile north of Bradford. Married Sallie Miller [sister of Mary Miller Bigler] July 15, 1847 and had 9 children. His wife and 5 children survived him. For 43 years he lived on their farm at Webster. He was an active member of the church, was elected deacon 1869. N. wrote "I helped to build their Barn I was 19 years old and Jacob Bashore 2 years older when he came to School to me when I taught my 1st term"

May 5. "I also read a Letter this week from David Bigler one of Dan Biglers Boys from Sacramento Calafornia he works at mill wrighting he was paid \$4<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a day he said that they treated Him as a good guest he married a girl out there and has several children Deliah his sister lives in Stockton Calafornia 40 miles from the Ocean Phebe Millers girls my sisters has a daughter that married and lives in Calafornia."

May 29. "Isaac Bigler's [wife] does more work than any woman here she is always busy last week she worked until after midnight making a fine dress for a Lady in town does all her own housework clean and nice she makes more money than i can she taught school when she was a girl She has a smart girl about 9 years old [Mrs. Edythe Neff] and a Boy five years old Isaac caught



three young crows down in the river bottom and has one jet black one more than half grown the children brought it down to me yesterday in a big box he is a nice tame pet Isaac is farming Major Cobbs farm just across the road running from the river they have all they want they bring me good milk sometimes."

"I clerked 13 elections at Gettysburg". (June 7) "I lived in Greenville and went to high school in Greenville." (Oct. 15) "The town is very much against the Dunkards here." (Nov. 2) "My father the people called him a good man." (Dec. 1.)

Dec. 15. "I just received a Letter from Deliah Bigler Miller from Stockton Calafornia she was at your house she used to teach School and lived in Goshen a long time she likes it well in Calafornia last July she and her little girl and her husband took a Steamboat ride on the San Joachin river to San Francisco City her letter was wrote Dec. 6, 1895".

### 1896

N. enclosed a letter from Delilah Bigler Miller: "Brother Demus. Here I will send you a little something to eat please accept of it I do not work much spend most of my time reading I read the Bible The Gospel Messenger, the Christian Herald and a good many other books I am reading the Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln now which Jimmie brought home from the school library."

April 26, Goshen. "I walked to the Lower end of Goshen where Levi Hokes live. I shuck hands with the children then Elizabeth Bigler Andrew Biglers girl she has her home there since her sister Nancy is dead i shuck hands with her and talked she told me that Deliah Bigler is dead one of Daniel Biglers girls she was at your house she married a Miller and moved to Stockton Calafornia where she died about 3 weeks ago she used to come to see me often she taught School when she was single."

July 4. "Little Edith and Enos [Pierre was his actual name] Bigler were here little Edith drew a picture of a hen she can beet me drawing. I told them to tend School and become School teachers."

### 1897

Mar. 10, Goshen. "I read a letter from Daniel Bigler this morning dated March the 1st he left here they had their sale here about 3 weeks ago and all moved to Kentucky 60 miles east of Louisville they did not change cars until they arrived at Louisville it cost them \$55<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> for their family and goods Dan Biglers have plenty money yet some of his 2nd wifes children moved there and some of Dan Biglers first wifes live there Levi Bigler was down in Kentucky and married a girl in Kentucky and they came here this winter to visit Lydia Bigler Dans girl sister to Deliah that died in Calafornia."

July 5. "Dave Miller and his 2nd wife Henry Millers and Marys Brother came in to see me one of Michael Millers girls from North Manchester came

in to see me Amanda Miller Deliahs girl was east to Frederick Maryland to the Dunkard annual meeting."

Nov. 15. "The Dunkards had their love feast in west Goshen last Friday Eavening I do not tend any meeting .... Sometimes from 50 to 75 tramps are in Elkhart City 10 miles west the people have fights with them they steal along the railroad from Chicago to Toledo Ohio. it is full of tramps and thieves robbing the freight trains stealing rides .... Of Mose Biglers children I have not heard for years what they are doing and their mother Mary Bigler."

Dec. 6. N. quotes prices in a Goshen grocery store: coffee 9¢ lb., fresh bread 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ loaf, "large fat prunes" 8¢ lb., pickled pork 5¢ lb., 1 lb. bar soap 3¢, old fashioned gum drops 5¢ lb.

### 1898

March 2, Goshen. Delila Bigler Miller, Box 283, wrote to Nicodemus as follows: "Dear Brother: My health is pretty good this winter if I stay right at home by the stove and take good care of myself. I do not go away any place only to meeting when I am well. We had a good protracted meeting in February .... Mary Bigler brother Moses wife was out here to see us the first of February she would have liked to go to see you but the weather was so cold and stormy that she could not get around much. Charley Bigler Cyrus Bigler's oldest boy lives on Marys farm. Mary lives with her daughter Lydia Jackson down below Covington .... We often hear from Mike Millers Phebe and Mike are both poorly I suppose you heard that Andy Miller (Mikes boy) died last November he had consumption he died in California where he had gone for his health and was brought back and buried at North Manchester. Mary Bigler said I should tell you she had liked very much to visit you for she expected this would be her last visit to Ind. her health was not very good and she is seventy three years old .... Demus if you are in need of anything please let me know I can not come to see you as often as I used too and as often as I would like I want you to write me if you are in need of anything direct your letter to Delila Miller, Goshen Box 283 do not direct to South West they always send it back to Goshen. Do you hear from brother Dan Bigler? The last letter I had was in the fall he said he could not work anything any more but hunt rabbits and was near his journey's end."

### 1899

June 27. "I am very glad that Epaminondas is at home again out of the army". Last letter in packet.

















